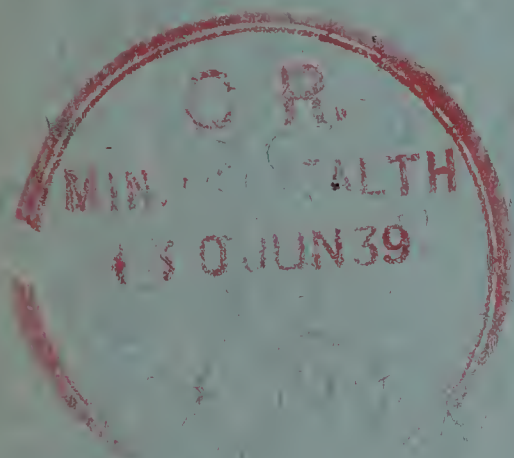


LIBRARY

LIBRARY

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

T. H. BINGHAM, M.D., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,

G. JANES, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

1938.

REDHILL:

S. C. JENNINGS & SONS, LTD., PRINTERS.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

T. H. BINGHAM, M.D., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,

G. JANES, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

1938.

REDHILL :

S. C. JENNINGS & SONS, LTD., PRINTERS.

	INDEX TO SECTIONS.	PAGES
SECTION I.	Statistics and Social Conditions	7 to 15
„ II.	General Provision of Health Services for the Area	16 „ 19
„ III.	Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	19 „ 26
„ IV.	Housing	26 „ 30
„ V.	Inspection and Supervision of Food	30 „ 33
„ VI.	Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases	34 „ 50
„ VII.	Maternity and Child Welfare	51 „ 66
REPORT	of Senior Sanitary Inspector	67 „ 85

CONTENTS.

Acute Polio-encephalitis	42
Acute Poliomyelitis	42
Ambulance Facilities	16
Ante-natal Supervision	51
Anthrax	49
Bacteriological Examination of Food	33
Bacteriological Examination of Milk.. ..	32 and 72
Bacteriological Work	50
Bakehouses	76
Bed Bugs, Eradication of	24
Birth Control	54
Births	11 and 56
Camping Sites	22
Child Life Protection	62
Clinics and Treatment Centres	17
Closet Accommodation	21
Complaints Received, Summary of	81
Common Lodging-houses	30
Deaths	12
Dental Treatment.. ..	60
Diphtheria	37
Diseases of Animals Acts—Disinfection	73
Disinfection	49 and 68
Domiciliary Visits.. ..	64
Dysentery	42
Encephalitis Lethargica	41
Enteric Fever	39
Erysipelas	43
Factories and Workshops	25 and 77
Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act	33 and 74
Food Supply	73
Hospitals	17
House Refuse, Storage of	85
Housing	26
Housing Inspections	79
Infant Mortality	15
Infant Welfare Clinics	57
Infectious Diseases	35
Influenza	47
Isolation Hospital Accommodation	34
Knacker's Yard	85
Laboratory Facilities	16
Maternal Mortality	55

CONTENTS—Continued.

Maternity Services	17
Measles	48
Meat	32 and 70
Merchandise Marks Act	76
Midwives	17 and 55
Milk, Provision of	62
Milk (Special Designations) Order	32
Milk Supply	30 and 71
Minor Ailments Clinics	59
Mortuaries	85
Mothercraft	64
Notices Issued	82
Nuisances Abated	82
Nursing Arrangements	16 and 55
Nursing Homes	18
Nutrition	33
Obstetric Consultant	54
Occupations	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	41
Ophthalmic Clinic	59
Orthopædic Treatment	61
Overcrowding	29
Pneumonia	41
Population	11
Post-natal Care	53
Puerperal Pyrexia	40
Rat Destruction	84
Return Cases	37
River Pollution	21
Sanitary Inspection of Area	22
Scarlet Fever	35
Scavenging	22
Schick Testing and Diphtheria Immunisation	39
Schools	24
Sewerage	21
Shell-fish	33
Shops and Offices	22, 73 and 76
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	71
Slaughterhouses	70
Smallpox	35
Smoke Abatement	23
Staff	4 and 16
Still-births	56
Swimming Baths and Pools	23
Tuberculosis	43
Tuberculosis Orders	73
Tuberculous Milk	32 and 73
Unemployment	8
Verminous Houses	70
Vital Statistics	9
Water Supply	19
Whooping Cough	48

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health (also School Medical Officer) :

THOMAS H. BINGHAM, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer—Maternity and Child Welfare (part-time) :

FRANCES M. BOWLES PRICE, M.D., D.P.H. (until 20 . 1 . 38).

JULIA CATHERINE HOMER AVERY, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
(from 20 . 1 . 38).

Obstetric Consultant (part-time) :

FREDERICK CURTIS, O.B.E., F.R.C.S.

Dental Surgeon (part-time) :

HENRY C. VAN DEN BROUCQUE, L.D.S. (R.C.S.) (until 10 . 9 . 38).

ALOYSIUS MICHAEL MOORHEAD, L.D.S., (R.C.S.) (from 12 . 9 . 38).

Public Analyst (part-time) :

EDWARD HINKS, B.Sc., F.I.C.

Veterinary Surgeon (part-time) :

SAMUEL E. HOLMES, O.B.E., M.R.C.V.S. (until 31 . 3 . 38).

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

GILBERT JANES, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Sanitary Inspectors :

HERBERT JOHN BELLAMY, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and
Other Foods.

CYRIL F. BAXTER, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other
Foods.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

ARTHUR J. STEWART.

Disinfecting Officer :

FREDERICK G. STEWART.

Assistant Rat Officer :

JACK GURNETT.

Health Visitors and Child Protection Visitors (also School Nurses) :

MABEL REESE, S.R.N., Health Visitors' Certificate.

MABEL DALLARD, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitors' Certificate.

KATHLEEN CLEMENTS, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitors' Certificate
(until 9 . 1 . 38).

FRANCES PHILLIPS, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitors' Certificate.

MONA EVELYN MORRIS, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitors' Certificate.
(from 21 . 2 . 38).

Clerks :

MURIEL K. HARRADINE.

FREDERICK G. BRITCHER.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1938.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the Public Health, and
Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1938, which follows the arrangement outlined in Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health. Repetition of information that has appeared in previous reports, with the exception of those items for which full particulars are requested, has been avoided wherever possible, and reference is made to the relevant section of a previous report in which the information is contained. The report now submitted is limited, for practical purposes, to a record of alterations, improvements and developments which have taken place during the year.

There was no cause of sickness or invalidity that was specially noteworthy in the area during the year ; neither was there evidence, statistical or otherwise, of a lowering of the standard of physique and nutrition of children or adults, nor of any conditions of occupation or environment that appeared to have had a prejudicial effect on health. With the exception of measles, which, following the usual cycle, appeared in epidemic form after three consecutive years of low prevalence, the incidence of infectious and other diseases was very much below the average ; the case rate for diphtheria was the second lowest observed in the Borough, while that for tuberculosis of the respiratory organs created a new low record.

The vital statistics compare very favourably with those for recent years and with those for England and Wales, and do not indicate unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause. The birth rate for the year was 13.6 per 1,000 population, the highest since 1928, while the mortality amongst infants under the age of one year was the lowest ever experienced in the Borough ; the latter was equivalent to a rate of 32 per 1,000 live births, which might almost be accepted as the irreducible minimum. The crude death rate was 11.3, the lowest for the last five years ; when corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population the rate is reduced to 9.3, as compared with 11.6 for England and Wales and 11.0 for towns comparable in size with Reigate. The mortality rates for cancer, influenza and the zymotic diseases were appreciably lower than usual, while those for pneumonia and respiratory tuberculosis fell below any previously recorded.

The services provided under the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare scheme operated satisfactorily during the year. The numbers attending the various clinics were well maintained and, in some instances, showed substantial increase ; the latter applies particularly to the Infant Welfare Clinics, at which roughly fifty per cent. of infants under school age in the area received regular medical attention. Noteworthy extensions included the provision of separate sessions for post-natal work, which had formerly been undertaken at the Ante-natal Clinics, and medical attendance twice weekly at the South Park Infant Clinic, instead of once a week as heretofore. The two outstanding events of the year were the erection of the new clinic building in South Park, the generous gift of Mrs. J. M. Hadley, and the award to the Reigate Centre of the National Parentcraft Silver Challenge Cup.

I have to acknowledge the loyal and conscientious service of every member of my staff, and the co-operation of officials engaged in other departments of the Corporation. I am grateful also to the Chairmen and Members of Committees for their support and consideration throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

REIGATE.

June, 1939.

SECTION I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (Land and Inland Water)	10,255 acres
Population, Census 1931 (enlarged Borough) ..	34,547
„ (estimated by the Registrar-General), mid-year 1938	36,630
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1938 according to Rate Books	9,863
Rateable Value (1938)	£408,179
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.. .. .	£1,573

Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants.

The numbers of males and females following certain occupations, as published in the Industry Tables (Census 1931), are as follows :—

MALES.

Transport and Communications	1,299
Commerce, Finance and Insurance	1,426
Agriculture	889
Metal Workers	749
Builders and Bricklayers	627
Professional Occupations	475
Workers in Wood	387
Salesmen and Shop Assistants	383
Personal Service	341
Painters and Decorators	326
Printers and Photographers	270
Electrical Apparatus	168
Makers of Foods	111
Textile Goods and Articles of Dress	107

FEMALES.

Personal Service	..	..	..	..	..	2,966
Professional Occupations	..	..	..	..	..	537
Commerce, Finance and Insurance	..	..	..	..	..	518
Shop Assistants	..	..	..	..	..	392
Textile Goods and Articles of Dress	..	..	..	..	..	231
Metal Workers	..	..	..	..	..	67
Printers and Photographers	..	..	..	..	..	31
Makers of Foods	..	..	..	..	..	22
Workers in Wood	..	..	..	..	..	17
Agriculture	..	..	..	..	..	11

Unemployment in the Area.

The numbers of men, women and juveniles who were unemployed in each month of the year are set out below. The figures relate to the area served by the Ministry of Labour Employment Office at Redbill, which includes the Borough of Reigate and surrounding districts, and are said to represent a low percentage of unemployment :—

1938.	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Juveniles.</i>	<i>Total.</i>			
January ..	505	—	55	—	21	—	581
February ..	375	—	46	—	23	—	444
March ...	312	—	67	—	25	—	404
April ...	259	—	56	—	16	—	331
May ...	267	—	40	—	13	—	320
June ..	208	—	44	—	16	—	268
July ...	248	—	36	—	8	—	292
August ..	223	—	37	—	9	—	269
September	323	—	50	—	22	—	395
October ..	388	—	57	—	29	—	474
November..	571	—	54	—	16	—	641
December ..	468	—	53	—	8	—	529

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :—

Legitimate ..	Males	241	Females	237	Total	478
Illegitimate ..	Males	14	Females	9	Total	23

Birth Rate ..	..	..	..	..	..	13.6
Do. 1937	..	..	..	..	..	13.0
Do. for the five years 1933 to 1937	..	..	..	..	..	12.2

Still Births :—

Males ..	10	Females ..	9	Total ..	19
----------	----	------------	---	----------	----

Rate per 1,000 total births ..	..	..	..	..	36.5
Do. do. 1937	..	..	..	..	36.5

Deaths (nett) :—

Males ..	174	Females ..	241	Total ..	415
----------	-----	------------	-----	----------	-----

Do. 1937 :—

Males ..	230	Females ..	217	Total ..	447
----------	-----	------------	-----	----------	-----

Death Rate ..	..	..	..	..	11.3
Do. 1937	..	..	..	..	12.2
Do. for the five years 1933 to 1937	..	..	..	..	11.6

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions ..	39.7
---	------

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

			<i>Rate per 1,000 total Deaths. (live and still) births</i>
Puerperal Sepsis ..	..	1	1.9
Other Puerperal Causes ..	..	1	1.9
Total	..	2	3.8

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	31.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			..	25.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			..	173.9

Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages) ..	..	58
Measles (all ages) ..	..	0
Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	..	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	..	0

TABLE I.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1938.

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Still-Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total deaths under one year
England and Wales	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	5.5	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	7.8	57
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at Census 1931)	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	3.6	51
London	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	13.1	57
Reigate	13.6	0.51	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	32

In the foregoing Table the death-rate for Reigate is the crude or recorded death-rate, without correction for the unfavourable age distribution of the population of the Borough, and is not, therefore, a valid measure for comparison with the mortality experienced in any other local area.

Population.

The resident population of the Borough at mid-year 1938, as estimated by the Registrar-General, was 36,630. The estimated increase since mid-year 1937 was 270, part of which is attributable to migration and part to natural increase, or excess of live births over deaths. There has been no abnormal movement of population in recent years that would seriously affect the gain by migration, which might be regarded as being more or less constant. The natural increase of population in the calendar year was 86, as compared with 28, 34 and 22 in the years 1937, 1936 and 1935 respectively. It might be expected, therefore, that the total estimated gain in population would exceed that in the years mentioned, but this is not confirmed by the Registrar-General's figure, which is probably an under-estimate of the actual resident population. This is not unusual toward the end of an intercensal period.

Particulars of the density, marital condition and proportions of the sex and age group components of the population of the Borough, as revealed at the last Census, are set out in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1933.

Births.

The live births assigned to the area, after correction for inward and outward transfers, were 501, of which 255 were of males and 246 of females. Illegitimate births formed 4.5 per cent. of the total, as compared with 5.0, 4.4 and 5.4 in the years 1937, 1936 and 1935 respectively.

The birth rate for the year was 13.6 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. This is slightly above the average rate in the Borough for the last twenty years, and is the highest recorded since 1928.

Deaths.

The deaths registered in the area, including those of Borough residents who died elsewhere but excluding those of temporary residents, which are transferred to other districts, were 415, of which 174 were of males, and 241 of females. The numbers of deaths of each sex in the various age groups were as follows :—

<i>Age period.</i>	<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
0-5 years ..	11	..	9	..	20
5-10 „ ..	1	..	1	..	2
10-15 „ ..	1	..	—	..	1
15-20 „ ..	3	..	2	..	5
20-30 „ ..	6	..	5	..	11
30-40 „ ..	6	..	8	..	14
40-50 „ ..	8	..	9	..	17
50-60 „ ..	22	..	20	..	42
60-70 „ ..	31	..	43	..	74
70-80 „ ..	49	..	75	..	124
80-90 „ ..	29	..	54	..	83
90 and upwards	7	..	15	..	22
	174		241		415

There were fewer deaths of males than in the previous year, due to the lower mortality amongst those in the later age groups. Deaths of females were slightly more numerous, the increase being confined to those between the ages of 70 and 80 years. It is noteworthy that more than one-half of the deaths were of persons over the age of 70 years, of whom 22 were 90 years and upwards, an increase of 4 on the corresponding figure for 1937.

The crude death rate for the year was 11.3, as compared with 12.2 for the previous year, and an average annual rate of 11.7 for the twenty years 1917 to 1936. The crude death rate is calculated on the estimated resident population, without correction for any unusual age or sex distribution which would influence the mortality experienced in the area, and so fails as a true comparative mortality index. The application to the crude rate of an Areal Comparability Factor produces an “adjusted” death-rate, which is comparable with the crude death-rate for the country.

as a whole, or with the similarly adjusted death-rate for any other area. The factor applies to the crude rate for "All Causes" only and not to individual cause rates. The adjusted death-rate for the Borough was 9.3 per 1,000 population, as against 11.6 for England and Wales, and 11.0 for towns comparable in size with Reigate.

As in recent years, the chief cause of death was disease of the heart and circulatory system, to which were attributed 151 deaths, or roughly one-third of the total deaths from all causes. Few of the deaths resulted from acute cardiac conditions, the majority being due to degenerative changes in the heart or arteries in association with senility.

Deaths from cancer and malignant disease formed the second largest group. Fifty-eight, or 13.9 per cent., of the total deaths from all causes, were certified to be due to cancer, the relative number of males and females affected being roughly similar to those previously recorded. The mortality from this cause was equivalent to a rate of 1.58 per 1,000 population, as compared with 1.59 in 1937, and a mean annual rate of 1.67 for the past ten years. As cancer chiefly affects persons over middle age, the more favourable findings for 1938 may be explained by the lower mortality amongst those in the later age groups, rather than by reduction in the incidence of cancer.

The numbers of deaths assigned to infectious disease and non-tuberculous affections of the respiratory organs are among the lowest observed in the Borough. The mortality from acute and chronic disease of the kidneys, digestive diseases and violence (including suicide) is also lower than usual. There was, however, a slight increase in the number of deaths attributed to cerebral haemorrhage and other degenerative changes associated with senility.

The numbers of deaths from other causes correspond roughly with those recorded in previous years, and are set out in Table II.

TABLE II.

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate during 1938.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	TOTAL.
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ..	..	..	..
2 Measles	..	..	..
3 Scarlet fever	..	..	..
4 Whooping cough	..	..	..
5 Diphtheria	..	..	..
6 Influenza	1	3	4
7 Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	..
8 Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	..	..
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	5	5	10
10 Other tuberculous diseases	2	..	2
11 Syphilis	1	..	1
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis.. ..	1	..	1
13 Cancer, malignant disease	19	39	58
14 Diabetes	2	7	9
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	16	26	42
16 Heart disease	49	71	120
17 Aneurysm	..	2	2
18 Other circulatory diseases	12	17	29
19 Bronchitis	2	2	4
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	2	4	6
21 Other respiratory diseases	1	2	3
22 Peptic ulcer	3	..	3
23 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	..	..	..
24 Appendicitis	2	1	3
25 Cirrhosis of liver	..	1	1
26 Other diseases of liver, &c.	1	—	1
27 Other digestive diseases	2	3	5
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	9	5	14
29 Puerperal sepsis	..	1	1
30 Other puerperal causes	..	1	1
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, &c.	8	6	14
32 Senility	7	16	23
33 Suicide	3	4	7
34 Other violence	6	9	15
35 Other defined diseases	20	15	35
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	1	1
(Special Causes (included in No. 35 above) :—			
Small-pox	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis	1	..	1
Polioencephalitis	..	..	..
	174	241	415

Infant Mortality.

Sixteen infants (8 males and 8 females) died before reaching the age of one year. With one exception, none survived the first month, thirteen dying within a week after birth. Ten of the deaths were attributed to prematurity, four to congenital malformation and debility and two to asphyxia (in one case due to inattention at birth and in one to coal gas poisoning). Five of the deaths took place in hospitals and two in private nursing homes; the remainder were investigated by the Health Visitors, who reported that faulty environment or lack of adequate care was not in any way contributory, except in the case of the deaths due to asphyxia, which were the subject of a coroner's inquest.

The mortality amongst young infants has declined fairly steadily since the beginning of the present century, when one baby out of every ten born in the Borough failed to survive the first year. The decline is due to a number of factors, and was markedly accelerated by the establishment of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service, which has undoubtedly played an important part in reducing the incidence of gastro-enteritis, marasmus, convulsions and other preventable conditions which contributed so largely to infant mortality in the past. The infant mortality rate for 1938 was the lowest recorded in the Borough, being 32 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 53 for England and Wales and 51 for towns comparable in size with Reigate. It might almost be said that this rate has now reached the irreducible minimum, as it is practically confined to neo-natal deaths, which are more likely to increase than diminish in the future in spite of the best organised preventative measures.

It may be noted that an undue proportion of the infant deaths were of illegitimate infants, who usually experience a very much heavier mortality than legitimate infants; the death rate for the former was 174 per 1,000 illegitimate live births, as against a rate of 25 for the latter.

SECTION II.

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES for the AREA.

Staff.

Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Borough Council are given in the list incorporated at the beginning of this report, including in each case information as to their special diplomas and certificates of qualification.

Laboratory Facilities.

The laboratory services provided for the area remain unaltered and are briefly as follows :—

Medical practitioners may send specimens of clinical material (sputum, blood, etc.) either to the Pathological Department of the East Surrey Hospital or to the Counties Public Health Laboratories in London for bacteriological or other examination.

Samples of milk or foods for biological and bacteriological examination are sent to the Clinical Research Association, Limited, in London.

Samples of potable water are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Samples of foods and drugs for chemical examination are sent to Mr. E. Hinks, B.Sc., F.I.C., Public Analyst.

Ambulance Facilities.

There has been no change in the ambulance service, which is adequate for the needs of the district. The ambulance provided and maintained by the Reigate Joint Hospital Board is garaged at the Hospital, and is used solely for the conveyance of infectious patients. Non-infectious and accident cases are conveyed either by the police ambulance, or by one of the two ambulances belonging to the St. John Ambulance Brigade ; a request for the use of an ambulance is usually made to the police, who refer the call to the St. John Ambulance Depot if the police ambulance is not available.

Nursing in the Home.

The arrangements in the area for (a) general nursing, and (b) the nursing of cases of infectious disease, remain unaltered and are fully described in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1935.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Full particulars of the Clinics and Treatment Centres in the area, including clinics solely for diagnosis or consultation, are set out in previous reports.

In 1936 the Borough Council established an Ante-natal Clinic at the Parish Hall in South Park and, at the request of the Committee concerned, took control of a voluntary Infant Welfare Clinic which had been in existence in that district for seventeen years. The Parish Hall was unsuitable for clinic purposes, owing to lack of accommodation for perambulators and for essential medical equipment. This drawback was very successfully overcome by the generosity of Mrs. J. M. Hadley in erecting a special building in South Park for use as a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. The building is admirably sited and planned, and comprises a large waiting room communicating with a weighing room, consulting room, nurse's office, kitchen, drug store, cloakrooms and lavatories. Heating is mainly by low pressure hot water radiators supplied from a central gas-fired boiler and is thermostatically controlled. Members of the Voluntary Workers' Committee and others interested in the work of the Clinic provided most of the equipment that was required, and gave very valuable help in the selection of the remainder. The building was formally handed over to the Borough Council on 12th December, 1938, and the first clinic session was held on the same afternoon.

Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.

The Borough Council has made arrangements for the admission of patients to the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital and to the East Surrey Hospital. Persons suffering from certain infectious diseases are admitted to the former, and abnormal or complicated maternity cases are admitted to the latter on the recommendation of the Borough Obstetric Consultant. There is no development or change to record in the services provided by these hospitals during the year.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

Dr. C. H. Avery was appointed part-time Assistant School Medical Officer and Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, in place of the two officers formerly employed, and took up her duties in January. Under the new arrangement it was possible to increase the number of ante-natal sessions, to

arrange separate sessions for post-natal examination, which had formerly been undertaken at the Ante-natal Clinics, and to provide medical attendance at the South Park Infant Welfare Clinic on two afternoons each week, instead of once a week as heretofore.

Apart from the erection and opening of the new clinic building at South Park, to which reference has been made above, there has been no other important change or development in the midwifery and maternity services provided in the district.

Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children : Health Visitors : Child Life Protection : Orthopaedic Treatment.

There has been no development or change in the services provided under any of these headings.

Nursing Homes.

The Surrey County Council is the Local Supervising Authority for the registration of nursing homes, but the duty of inspecting and supervising the registered nursing homes in the Borough is delegated to the Borough Council, and is discharged by the Medical Officer of Health.

There are four registered nursing homes in the Borough, namely :—

- (1) Reigate Nursing Home Limited, Doods Road, Reigate.
- (2) Redhill Nursing Home, Warwick Road, Redhill.

(These are registered for medical, surgical and maternity cases, and each has a well-equipped operating theatre).

- (3) Denmark Nursing Home, Linkfield House, Batt's Hill, Redhill. (This is registered for medical and maternity cases, and has a separate labour ward).
- (4) Braeside, Crosslands Road, Redhill—for chronic mental and nerve cases.

The premises at Knowle Lodge, Redhill, and at The Grange, Frenches Road, Redhill, which were formerly registered as nursing homes, have now ceased to be used for that purpose. The former was closed in July and the latter in October on the keepers surrendering their Certificates of Registration. The resulting loss in nursing home accommodation has almost been made good by the registration of Thornton House, Warwick Road, which has been suitably adapted and equipped for the reception of four medical and eleven maternity patients, as an extension of the Redhill Nursing Home.

The registered nursing homes in the Borough provide accommodation for a total of 71 patients, of whom 27 are accommodated in separate rooms. The number of beds could be increased to a maximum of 86 without infringing the standard requirement of floor area per bed. The accommodation and equipment at each nursing home may be regarded as suitable for the type of case for which the home is registered, and adequate trained nursing staff is employed.

All the registered homes were inspected during the year, and it was reported that at three the standards of equipment, fitting, interior decoration and cleanliness were satisfactory, and that the official registers and other forms of record prescribed by the County Council were in use and properly kept. At the fourth, however, the standard of cleanliness was considerably below that required in a nursing home, particularly in one primarily concerned with maternity work, records relating to children born in the home and removed otherwise than to the custody or care of a parent, guardian or relative were incomplete and the general management of the home was, in other respects, unsatisfactory. These matters were dealt with in a report which was forwarded to the Surrey County Council.

SECTION III.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There was no important extension of water mains in the area during the year, other than that necessitated by building development. The Borough has a piped supply from the East Surrey Water Company, the water being derived from deep borings in the chalk at Kenley, Purley and Leatherhead. The raw water is softened by the lime process, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution, and samples of the treated water from each source of supply are submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination once a month under private arrangements made by the Company. Copies of the analyst's reports are forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health. In addition, samples of water are taken for chemical and bacteriological examination at regular intervals under the rota system now operating in the districts supplied by the East Surrey Water Company. Under this system the supply is examined about forty times a year, the analyst's reports being available for the use of the districts concerned.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, the average daily consumption per head of population being about thirty gallons ; the quality of the water was invariably reported to be excellent, and of a high degree of organic and bacterial purity. The following report is typical of those received during the year :—

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	..	..	..	..	Clear and Bright
Colour	..	..	..	..	.. Normal
Odour and Taste	..	..	..	..	.. Normal
Reaction pH	..	..	..	..	Neutral : 7.4
Free Carbonic Acid	..	..	..	..	Nil
Electrical Conductivity at 20 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	240
Total Solids, 180 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	16.0
Chlorine as chlorides	..	..	..	..	2.1
Nitrogen as nitrates	..	..	..	..	0.48
Nitrites	..	..	..	..	Absent
Hardness : Permanent	..	..	..	..	6.0
Temporary	..	..	..	..	1.5
Total	..	..	..	..	7.5
Metals	..	..	..	..	Iron : 0.003
Free Ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.0000
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.0000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 deg. F.	..	..	..	..	0.010

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Bacteria per c.c. or m.l.					
On Agar in 3 days at 20 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	1
1 day at 37 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	0
2 days at 37 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	1
The Bacillus Coli	..	..	..	..	Absent in 100 c.cs.
Bacillus Welchii	..	..	..	..	,, ,, 100 c.cs.
(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)					

Report.

“ This sample is clear and bright and of normal colour. The water is neutral in reaction, of very moderate hardness, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and no metals, apart from a negligible trace of iron.

It is of a high degree of organic and bacterial purity, and is considered pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

During the year a number of residents complained that water drawn from the public main was discoloured and showed a deposit on standing. A sample taken at one of the affected houses was reported to be of excellent quality. It was later ascertained that the shutting down of mains and reservoirs for leakage test purposes had disturbed iron deposit, to which the discolouration of the water was due.

At the end of the year fifteen houses were not connected to the public main, but derived their water supply from three private wells. One well supplying three cottages was closed, following an unsatisfactory report on a sample taken at the end of 1937, and the public supply was laid on to each house.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The surface water sewerage system in the Merstham district was extended to provide adequate surface drainage for Bourne Road, Albert Road and Melton Road, which were made up during the year. The foul water sewer in the same district was extended for a distance of 550 yards north of Worsted Green Lane to provide for the new housing estate at Wood Street.

The relining of the old brick culvert forming the main outfall sewer between the Market Square and Brook Road was completed during the year. Specially pre-cast sections constructed of "Gunitite" cement grouting reinforced with steel fabric were used for lining, and have proved to be very satisfactory; the section of sewer between Brook Road and the Disposal Works is to be dealt with in the same manner.

Eight houses, which had previously relied on cesspool drainage, were connected to the public sewer, resulting in the abolition of eight cesspools.

Rivers and Streams.

The streams and surface water-courses in the area are regularly inspected, but no pollution was discovered during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

Four houses with closets on the conservancy system were converted to the water-carriage system and connected to private disposal plants.

Public Cleansing.

There has been no important extension or improvement in the arrangements for refuse collection and disposal, which have been fully described in previous reports.

The Corporation has decided to discontinue the free emptying of cesspools in two areas, as the public sewer has now been made available to practically all existing properties. The cesspool emptying machine has been replaced by a vehicle with greater capacity and with many improved features, which have increased the efficiency of the service.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Shops and Offices.

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1934, were continued during the year. Particulars of action taken under the provisions of the Act relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

It was not found possible to commence a systematic inspection of offices until toward the end of the year. It is proposed, in the first instance, to summarise the results of a preliminary inspection in order to ascertain the general standard of accommodation in the district, but at the same time to make use of the appropriate provisions of the Public Health Act to deal with conditions that are obviously undesirable.

Camping Sites.

So far as is known, only one site in the Borough was used for camping purposes during 1938. This site consists of a field with an area of approximately one acre and a half, adjoining and belonging to a private hotel, and is approved land used by members of the Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland. Use of the site is restricted to owners of trailer caravans, and it is estimated that the maximum number of campers at the site during the year was sixty. No licences were issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

One application was made for a licence authorising the use of a plot of land as a site for a moveable dwelling, but the application was refused. The applicant appealed against the decision of the Council, and the hearing was adjourned in order that he might submit plans for the erection of a bungalow on the site ; the matter was still pending at the end of the year.

Smoke Abatement.

Very few manufacturing processes are carried on in the district and nuisance from smoke seldom arises. One complaint was received ; this related to the plant used for raising steam for the purpose of brick making, but timed observations did not confirm the existence of a statutory nuisance. The abnormal emission of smoke was due to careless stoking or lack of knowledge on the part of the stoker in charge, and was greatly reduced when the stokers were instructed in the proper working of the plant.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Three swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Two are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation ; the water in both is purified by continuous filtration combined with continuous and accurately controlled chlorination. Certain tests are performed several times daily by the Baths Superintendent to determine the reaction of the water and the proportion of free chlorine present in the water entering and leaving the baths : any excess or deficiency revealed by the tests is counteracted by suitable adjustment of the amounts of chemical reagents added. The baths are inspected periodically by the staff of the Public Health Department, and samples of the water are submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination, usually at the height of the swimming season. Samples examined during the year were reported to contain no excess of free chlorine or of saline or mineral matter in solution, and to be of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

The third swimming bath is a privately owned open pool, to which the public are admitted on payment. The necessary plant has been installed to ensure cleanliness and purity of the water, which is tested daily by the Bath Attendant for alkalinity and free chlorine. In 1937 the water from this pool was reported to be acid in reaction and turbid, due to incorrect operation of

the treatment plant, and detailed instructions were given as to the amounts of the various chemical reagents to be added to the pool under normal conditions. These, apparently, have been closely followed, as samples examined during the year were reported to be in all respects satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The disinfection of verminous premises is carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. The methods employed include the application of liquid and gaseous insecticides to exposed surfaces after skirtings, picture mouldings and architraves have been loosened and walls, where necessary, have been stripped. The insecticides are practically non-toxic to human beings and have given very satisfactory results. Premises which have been disinfested are inspected at regular intervals in order that any recurrence may be promptly detected.

When Council houses become vacant they are visited by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who takes any action necessary to render them free from vermin. The premises occupied by prospective tenants are also visited, and furniture, bedding, etc., which is thought to be verminous is steam disinfected or thoroughly cleansed and sprayed before removal to a Council house.

Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The surroundings and sanitary condition of public elementary schools in the area may be regarded as generally satisfactory. The public water supply is available for washing and drinking purposes at all schools, wash basins are provided in accordance with recognised requirements and hygienic drinking fountains of approved pattern have been installed in several departments.

The sanitary conveniences are on the water-carriage system and are suitable in type, sufficient in number and generally satisfactory as regards condition and cleanliness. The heating, lighting and ventilation of classrooms and cloakrooms are, on the whole, adequate, and at most schools there are facilities for

warming food brought by the children and for drying wet boots and clothing; the arrangements for the latter have been very greatly improved in two departments by the installation in the cloakrooms of tubular electric heaters.

Children who are suffering from infectious or contagious disease and, in certain cases, children living in houses in which cases of these diseases have occurred, are excluded from school for the periods recommended in the joint memorandum issued in 1927 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education. School closure to prevent the spread of infectious disease was not thought to be indicated during the year.

Disinfection and cleansing of school premises are undertaken when children suffering from infectious disease have been in attendance, and when there is reason to believe that risk of infection is likely to be reduced by this means.

Factories and Workshops.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

PREMISES. (1)	NUMBER OF		
	<i>Inspections.</i> (2)	<i>Written Notices.</i> (3)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted.</i> (4)
Factories with mechanical power	92	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	75	2	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises)	3	—	—
TOTAL ...	170	2	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS. (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecu- tions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ..	14	12	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ..	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary {insufficient... ..	1	1	—	—
Conveniences {unsuitable or ..	7	5	—	—
(S. 7) {defective ...				
{not separate				
{for sexes ...				
Other offences	9	6	—	—
(Not including offences re- lating to Home Work or offences under the Sec- tions mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
TOTAL ...	32	24	—	—

3.—OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES.

(Section 108 of Act of 1901 ; Section III of Act of 1937).
No action was necessary.

SECTION IV.

HOUSING.

The statistical particulars relating to housing in the area are set out below. The total number of dwelling-houses inspected for all purposes was 441, of which 249 were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. Ten of the houses inspected were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Informal

action was taken in respect of five, of which one was demolished and two were closed by the owners, while action in the other two was pending at the end of the year. The remaining five were represented to the Council as unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered so fit at a reasonable expense ; these were :—

- (1) No. 45a, High Street, Reigate.
- (2) No. 16a, Common Road, Redhill.
- (3) Brickyard Cottage, Woodhatch Road, Reigate.
- (4) No. 153, Garlands Road, Redhill.
- (5) No. 155, Garlands Road, Redhill.

The first was closed by the owner, who gave an undertaking to the Council that the premises would not in future be used for human habitation, the second was put into habitable condition by the owner and the remaining three were the subject of Demolition Orders, one of which was made before the end of the year.

In 1937 the Council accepted an undertaking from the owner-occupier of a caravan dwelling, in respect of which a Notice under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, had been served, that the dwelling would not be used for human habitation ; this undertaking was broken in 1938, when it was found that the dwelling was again occupied, and a Demolition Order was made.

One hundred and eighty-six houses, which were not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, were rendered fit before the end of the year in consequence of informal action. One house was demolished in pursuance of a Demolition Order made by the Council in the previous year.

The 3 new cases of overcrowding discovered during the year occurred in 3 houses, of which one was owned by the Corporation: the corresponding figures for the previous year were 13 and 2 respectively. Nine cases of overcrowding were relieved, in six instances in consequence of preliminary intimation to the tenants, in one by the allocation of a Council house, and in two, occurring in Council houses, by the re-allocation of houses according to the size of the tenant's family, or by securing reduction in the number of persons sleeping in the house. No dwelling-house again became overcrowded after the Borough Council had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. At the end of the year, 9 dwelling-houses, including 3 owned by the Corporation, were known to the Public Health Department to be overcrowded ; the dwellings were occupied by 10 families, comprising a total of 86 persons.

Under Section 62 of the Housing Act, 1936, 34 applications were made by landlords for the number of persons constituting the permitted number in relation to 144 houses. Information obtainable from the Valuation Department and from housing inspection records was made use of, wherever possible, in computing the permitted number. Measurement of rooms, where necessary, was made by the Sanitary Inspectors, who dealt with 117 dwelling-houses. Thirty-seven certificates, with information relating to 193 houses, were supplied to owners by the Borough Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		(a)	441
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		(b)	2,541
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		(a)	249
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		(b)	1,886
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			10
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..		243

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers			186
--	--	---	---------	--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)		Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs			Nil

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	1
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	9
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	10
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	86
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	72
(d)		Number of dwelling-houses which again became overcrowded after the local authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Common Lodging-houses.

A common lodging-house is defined as a house provided for the purpose of accommodating by night poor persons, not being members of the same family, who resort thereto and are allowed to occupy one common room for the purpose of sleeping or eating.

There is one registered common lodging house in the Borough, namely, No. 8, Nutley Lane, Reigate. This is planned on the cubicle system and provides accommodation for thirteen male lodgers. The premises are in good condition, well equipped and in all respects suitable for use as a common lodging house.

The owner of two dwelling-houses in Grove Road, Redhill, which were used jointly as a common lodging house, applied in January for re-registration of the premises. It was reported that the premises were verminous, in very bad repair both internally and externally, insufficiently lighted and ventilated and in other respects unfit for the purpose for which they were used. The owner was made aware of the general grounds on which the premises fell short of the required standard, and was requested to specify in detail the works he was prepared to carry out to remedy the unsatisfactory conditions to which attention had been drawn. This request was not complied with, nor was any substantial improvement made in the condition of the premises. It was decided, therefore, to refuse registration and to warn the owner of the action that might be taken if he continued to conduct a common lodging house without being registered in respect thereof. It was later found that, notwithstanding this warning, the premises were still being used as a common lodging house, and authority was given for the institution of proceedings under Section 236 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Particulars of the numbers of persons registered as cow-keepers, dairymen and retail purveyors of milk, and of alterations made in the Registers during the year are set out in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Accredited milk is produced at nine farms in the Borough, the same number as in 1937. One cow-keeper was granted a licence by the County Council for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk, after his premises had been altered and brought up

to the required standard, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Many samples of milk were taken at the farms by officers of the County Council, and all were satisfactory, with the exception of one which failed to pass the prescribed methylene blue test.

The inspection of dairy herds in the Borough was undertaken by a Veterinary Officer of the County Council until 31st March, 1938, when veterinary functions were transferred from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture. In the course of inspection two cows were found to be tuberculous and were appropriately dealt with.

The premises of producers and retailers of milk in the area are inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspectors, who continue to secure improvement of methods and equipment, and to see that a proper standard of cleanliness is maintained.

The procedure followed in the sampling of milk is in all respects similar to that described in previous reports. All samples are submitted to bacteriological and biological examination, but, in view of the changes introduced by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the bacterial purity of raw (i.e. untreated) milk is estimated by the methylene blue reduction test, which replaces the microscopical and plate count tests formerly in use. The latter tests are still applied to Pasteurised milk, which must reach the same standard of bacterial purity as in the past.

One hundred and thirteen samples (including fourteen of Pasteurised milk) were submitted to bacteriological examination during the year, with the results set out in Table III. The percentage of samples of untreated milk reaching the standard laid down for Accredited milk is slightly higher than in 1937, which was reported to be the highest recorded in the Borough. Fourteen samples of Pasteurised milk were examined, as against five in the previous year, and were found to reach the required standard. Of the 101 samples submitted to biological examination nine were reported to contain the Tubercle Bacillus ; this is equivalent to 8.91 per cent., of the total, as compared with 6.25 per cent., 4.00 per cent., and 12.09 per cent., in the years 1937, 1936 and 1935 respectively. Five of the infected samples were taken at the same time from the same farm and were traced to one animal with tuberculosis of the udder. The animals from which the samples containing Tubercle Bacilli had been derived were successfully traced and dealt with by the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture.

TABLE III.
RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.
1. METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST, ETC.
(a) Untreated Milk.

No. of Samples.	Methylene Blue Test.		Coliform Test.		Within Accredited Standard.	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	No.	%
99	95	4	82	17	81	81.8

(b) Pasteurised Milk.

No. of Samples.	Below 100,000 bacteria per millilitre.		More than 100,000 bacteria per millilitre.		Phosphatase Test	
					Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
	B. Coli +	B. Coli —	B. Coli +	B. Coli —		
14	2	12	—	—	14	—

2. BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

No. of Samples.	Tubercle Baccili +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
101	9	8.91

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to 7 retailers in the area :—

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	5
Tuberculin Tested—bottling licence	..	..	..	..	1
Accredited	..	..	..	..	1
Accredited—bottling licence	..	..	..	..	1
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	1
Pasteuriser's licence	..	..	..	..	1
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	..	..	..	..	1

Fourteen samples of Pasteurised milk were examined bacteriologically and were found to conform with the standards laid down in the Order.

Meat and Other Foods.

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed, and particulars of inspections of premises where food is prepared.

Adulteration, Etc.

No special action was necessary under the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, nor under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.

All articles submitted to the Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927, but no infringement of the Regulations was reported.

The action taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is described in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Samples for chemical analysis are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. E. Hinks, B.Sc., F.I.C., and samples of milk for bacteriological examination to the Clinical Research Association, Limited. Bacteriological examination of other kinds of food was not called for during the year.

Shell-fish (Molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district. The shell-fish on sale locally are obtained from the London markets, so that no information is available as to the layings from which the shell-fish are derived.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, nor under the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932.

Nutrition.

Advantage is taken of every opportunity to increase the knowledge of the public on the subject of nutrition, and to impress the importance of adequate nutrition, especially for children. The subject is fully dealt with in the course of consultations with parents attending the various clinics, or present at the school medical inspection of their children, while collective teaching is undertaken at the mothercraft classes, which are held regularly at the Health Centre and are attended by mothers and senior schoolgirls. Short addresses on the subject are given to organised audiences from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health and other members of the staff.

SECTION VI.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

Following a survey made under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, the County Medical Officer of Health formulated a scheme for the provision of hospital accommodation for infectious diseases. The scheme proposed the formation of a hospital district to include the Borough of Reigate, the Urban Districts of Caterham and Warlingham and of Dorking, and the Rural Districts of Dorking and Horley and of Godstone, and suggested the formation of a Joint Board to co-ordinate the functions of the Local Authorities concerned in relation to the provision of hospital accommodation for infectious disease. It was stated that the ultimate aim was to concentrate such accommodation on the site of the present Reigate Joint Hospital, and eliminate the hospitals at Dorking and Godstone.

The proposals of the County Medical Officer were accepted in principle by the Reigate Borough, Dorking Urban District and Dorking and Horley Rural District Councils, but were opposed by the Caterham and Warlingham Urban, and the Godstone Rural District Councils, after consideration of reports prepared by the Medical Officers of Health and Financial Officers of the Local Authorities to be included in the combined area. The scheme of the County Medical Officer was submitted, without modification, to the Minister of Health for his approval.

The Minister failed to confirm the original scheme put forward by the County Medical Officer, but decided that the Borough of Reigate, the Urban District of Dorking and the Rural District of Dorking and Horley should form an area for isolation hospital purposes, and that a minimum of 50 beds should be provided for the area. The Medical Officers of Health of the districts concerned prepared a report on the amended scheme, in which they expressed regret that the original scheme was not proceeded with as, in their opinion, it provided the only satisfactory ultimate solution of the problem of isolation hospital accommodation for this area. This report, together with the observations of the Financial Officers on the proposals contained in it, was considered

in July at a meeting of representatives of the three districts to be included in the new hospital area. The representatives of the Dorking Urban District did not approve a proposal to establish a Joint Board to administer the isolation hospitals in the area, except on certain conditions which they agreed to submit to a further meeting of the Authorities concerned.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described on page 36 of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1934.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out in accordance with the suggestions contained in the joint Memorandum issued in 1927 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education.

Table IV shows the numbers of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the fifty-two weeks ended 31st December, 1938, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital, and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Small-pox.

No case of small-pox was notified in the Borough during the year.

The Medical Officer of Health did not perform any primary vaccination or re-vaccination under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Scarlet Fever.

For the second year in succession, the incidence of scarlet fever in the Borough was exceptionally low. Thirty-five cases were notified, as compared with an annual average of 82 in the preceding ten years. The case rate for the disease was 0.95 per 1,000 population, as against 2.41 for England and Wales.

The disease was fairly general in distribution and was not confined to any particular period of the year, though notifications were slightly more numerous toward the end of March. Nineteen cases occurred amongst children attending elementary schools; although most of these were reported from schools in the eastern

TABLE IV.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Disease	Cases notified in Age Periods												Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths.
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	1	3	13	8	5	4	1	—	—	35	27	—
Diphtheria ..	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	5	5	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	19	3	—	—	23	20	1
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	1	5	5	6	7	30	11	6
Ophthalmia Neon- atorum ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Acute Polio- encephalitis ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Dysentery ..	—	—	4	—	1	4	2	—	2	1	2	1	17	6	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	2	10	9	1
Totals ..	7	2	5	3	5	22	11	8	35	11	13	10	132	88	10

part of the Borough, the general distribution of the disease, and the time elapsing between the appearance of successive cases, did not suggest that the infection had been derived from a common source.

In most cases the disease was of the prevailing mild type, with relative freedom from complications. Secondary cases were seldom encountered, though in several instances there was evidence that notified cases had been infected by other members of the same household who were suffering from acute inflammatory throat conditions, due to the causative organism of scarlet fever, but not presenting any of the other symptoms of that disease.

Twenty-seven cases of scarlet fever were removed to the Reigate Joint Hospital, the remainder being isolated and treated in their own homes. The advisability of replacing hospital treatment in suitable cases by skilled nursing and supervision at home was discussed in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1937, in which it was stated that isolation in hospital has had no appreciable effect in reducing the prevalence or mortality of scarlet fever, and that the segregation of patients tends to favour the occurrence of super-added infection and to raise the incidence of septic complications. Home isolation in the Borough is permitted and encouraged wherever the patient's circumstances are such that this can be undertaken without serious risk of spread of infection. Generally speaking, only persons who are in a position to engage the services of private nurses take advantage of this concession. To make the practice more general it would be necessary to provide skilled nursing assistance in a large proportion of cases ; apart from the advantage to the patient, the cost would be very considerably lower than that of hospital treatment.

Return Cases.

For the first time in several years no case of scarlet fever could be traced to a convalescent patient discharged from the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria.

There were only 5 notifications of diphtheria, as compared with 15 in 1937 and an annual average of 38 for the ten years 1927 to 1936. The case rate for the disease (0.14) is the second lowest recorded in the Borough and compares very favourably with that for the country as a whole (1.58) and for towns comparable in size with Reigate (1.53).

The notified cases included one diagnosed on bacteriological evidence only, in the absence of clinical manifestation of the disease ; this was a child admitted to the East Surrey Hospital for treatment of burns and subsequently found to be suffering from ear discharge from which the diphtheria organism was isolated. Routine swabbing of contacts in the same ward led to the discovery of one nurse and four children who were potentially infectious.

A child who had been under treatment for diphtheria in an isolation hospital in London was discharged to the Basque Children's Home in Reigate, and was later found to have profuse purulent discharge from the nose, ears and eyes, which was shown bacteriologically to be diphtheritic in origin. The other children in the Home were examined, but only one was found to harbour germs of diphtheria. Positive swabs were also obtained from seven persons who had been in contact with notified cases or were suspected to be chronic carriers.

All notified cases of diphtheria and positive contacts were removed to the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital. The disease appeared to be mild in type, no death from this cause being reported.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Arrangements have been made with a firm of chemists for the supply of anti-diphtheritic serum to medical practitioners at any hour of the day or night and, in cases of extreme urgency, for the delivery of serum to the doctor's or to the patient's residence. The serum is supplied in 'Serules,' each fitted with a sterilised needle, thus obviating the use of a syringe. This is intended to encourage the prompt administration of serum to any patient suspected to be suffering from diphtheria. These arrangements have been made known to medical practitioners in the neighbourhood, who have been requested to administer serum in all suspected cases without waiting for the result of bacteriological examination.

One request for serum was received during the year, the total amount supplied being 2,000 units.

Schick Testing and Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The arrangements for Schick testing and artificial immunisation against diphtheria remain unaltered and are fully described in previous reports. The work carried out at the Council's Clinics during the year is summarised as follows :—

Number of Pre-school children immunised	65
Number of school children immunised	70
Total number of persons tested	159
Number giving a positive reaction	110
Percentage giving a positive reaction	69.1%
Number of persons re-tested	80
Number giving a negative reaction	77
Percentage giving a negative reaction	96.2%
Total number of inoculations given	442
Prophylactic used—Toxoid Anti-toxin Floccules.	

The preliminary Schick test was dispensed with in the case of younger children, most of whom are highly susceptible to diphtheria. This would explain the relatively low percentage of positive reactors among the children tested.

The efficacy of artificial immunisation may be judged by the large proportion of persons who failed to react to the Schick test after a single course of three injections of diphtheria prophylactic, and by the fact that no case of diphtheria was notified in a person who had been artificially protected and subsequently shown by the Schick test to be immune. The three persons in whom a positive reaction persisted were submitted to a further, though less intensive, course of treatment, but had not been re-tested before the end of the year. There was complete absence of general and local reaction in the persons inoculated, and very little difficulty was experienced in securing the attendance of patients for treatment.

Artificial immunisation against diphtheria is also carried out at all the large residential institutions in the Borough, and has contributed in no small measure to the marked reduction in the incidence of the disease in recent years. A considerable number of persons have been similarly protected by doctors in private practice, but complete records of these are not available.

Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid).

Two cases of enteric fever were notified, the causative organism in each case being the *Bacillus Typhosus*. The persons

affected were young children, brother and sister, who had contracted the infection abroad and were either incubating the disease or suffering from it on their arrival in Reigate. Home isolation was permitted in view of the excellent facilities available, and both recovered completely after a comparatively short illness. One suspected case of paratyphoid fever was admitted to the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital for investigation, which did not confirm the original diagnosis.

British refugees arriving in this country from Spain and making Reigate their destination were reported to the Medical Officer of Health, and were kept under surveillance in case they might have contracted enteric fever or other infectious disease before their arrival.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Twenty-three women were notified to be suffering from puerperal pyrexia, of whom twenty were under treatment in hospital, two in nursing homes and one in a private dwelling, where a trained nurse was in attendance and all necessary facilities for treatment were available. All recovered satisfactorily, with the exception of one who died in hospital from puerperal infection.

The number of notifications of the disease exceeds any previously recorded in the Borough, and represents a case rate of 44.2 per 1,000 total (i.e. live and still) births, which is more than treble the rate for England and Wales. It should be noted, however, that cases of puerperal pyrexia are notifiable in, and accredited to, the area in which they are under treatment at the time of notification, while the case rate for the disease is calculated, not on the total births taking place in the area, but on the nett births assigned to it, after deduction of those to persons normally resident elsewhere. Fifteen of the notifications were in respect of women admitted to the Redhill County Hospital from outside districts, so that only eight related to Borough residents, i.e., eight cases of puerperal pyrexia in connection with 520 births, which is equivalent to a rate of 15.3. Calculated on this basis, which would seem to be more logical, the rate for the Borough approaches that for the country as a whole, which was 14.4. To some extent the slightly higher rate for the Borough is an indication of more complete notification, as most of the cases were under treatment in hospital, where recurrent rises of temperature are more readily observed.

Pneumonia.

There were thirty notifications of pneumonia, more than one-half of which were received in the first quarter of the year, when young adults and persons of middle age were chiefly affected. A second period of prevalence was observed in the months of November and December, when the incidence was heaviest amongst elderly persons, in many of whom the disease was stated to be secondary to influenza. Thirteen patients were already in hospital at the time of notification, or were subsequently removed to hospitals or nursing homes for the purpose of treatment. The remaining cases were visited by the Health Visitors to ascertain if nursing assistance were required, and to give advice with regard to the precautions to be taken to prevent spread of infection; in nine instances trained nurses were already in attendance, and, in the others, the provision of nursing assistance did not appear to be necessary.

The mortality from pneumonia was the lowest ever experienced in the Borough, and was confined to persons at the extremes of life. Of the six deaths ascribed to this cause, three were of persons under treatment in hospital or other public institution. In only one case had the disease been officially notified, so that the ratio of non-notified deaths from pneumonia to total deaths from the disease was as five to six. Three of the non-notified cases died in institutions, and it is probable that the medical staff had reason to believe that the cases had been notified before admission.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Seven infants were notified as cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, of whom six were already under treatment in the Redhill County Hospital at the time of notification and one was admitted to that institution in the course of the disease for the purpose of treatment. All recovered without permanent injury to the eyes or impairment of vision.

The total number of cases is considerably above the average for the Borough, though it should be noted that five of the notifications related to infants born in the County Hospital to mothers normally resident in other districts.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

A patient with vague cerebral symptoms which had persisted for several months was admitted to the Redhill County Hospital,

where he was later diagnosed to be suffering from encephalitis lethargica. Enquiries at the patient's home failed to discover the source of infection or suspicious illness in other members of the household.

Acute Polio-encephalitis.

The one case of this disease notified during the year was accepted for treatment at the East Surrey Hospital, and died four days after admission. Death was certified to be due to encephalitis and broncho-pneumonia, and appears to have been classified under the latter heading in the returns of the Registrar-General. At the onset of the illness the patient was in quarantine as a contact of measles and, in consequence, opportunities for spread of infection were very greatly reduced.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Acute poliomyelitis, in many cases with respiratory involvement, was unusually prevalent in several parts of the country during the year. One case occurred in the Borough and was admitted to the Redhill County Hospital because the patient's condition called for constant medical supervision, which is not provided at the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital. The patient subsequently developed respiratory paralysis and was promptly transferred to the Western Fever Hospital in London for treatment in a mechanical respirator. This, however, was unavailing and the patient died ten weeks later.

The usual preventive action was taken immediately the existence of the case was known. The patient's home was visited and immediate contacts were advised as to the precautions to be taken. Medical practitioners in the district were informed that a case of the disease had occurred and were asked to report any definite or suspected cases that might come to their notice. A supply of serum was obtained and held in readiness for prophylactic or therapeutic use.

Dysentery.

Seventeen cases of dysentery were notified, and in most of these the diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological examination of faecal material, from which the Sonne type of organism was isolated. The disease was practically confined to the western part

of the Borough and did not exhibit marked seasonal incidence, except for slightly greater prevalence in the early part of the year. In two instances the infection was derived from a previous case in the same household, but in others the source could not be traced as the disease had been contracted several weeks before a diagnosis was made. Three patients were treated in the Reigate Joint Hospital, three in the Redhill County Hospital and the remainder in their own homes, where all necessary precautions were taken to prevent spread of infection.

The illness, on the whole, was of the mild type usual in Sonne infection. The only death associated with the disease was of a patient who was admitted to the Reigate Joint Hospital as a case of bacillary dysentery and subsequently developed venous thrombosis. An autopsy in this case revealed an acute inflammatory condition of the bowel with extensive ulceration, which suggested non-specific ulcerative colitis with the Sonne organism as a secondary invader.

Erysipelas.

The incidence of erysipelas was very much lower than usual, only ten cases being notified. Five of these were treated in the Royal Earlswood Institution, four in the Redhill County Hospital and one in a private dwelling. The only death attributed to this cause was of an elderly patient who was under treatment in hospital ; this represents a mortality rate of 0.02, as compared with 0.05 and 0.08 in the years 1937 and 1936 respectively.

Tuberculosis.

Nineteen new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs and twelve of tuberculosis of other organs were reported amongst Borough residents during the year. Twenty-four were cases notified for the first time, the remaining seven being reported by the County Medical Officer on transference from other districts in which they had already been notified.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table V, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

TABLE V.

New Cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1938, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	...	...	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5-15 "	...	...	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-
15-25 "	...	...	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
25-35 "	...	...	3	3	-	1	2	2	-	-
35-45 "	...	...	2	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
45-55 "	...	...	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
55-65 "	...	...	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 & upwards	...	...	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	...	...	12	7	8	4	5	5	2	-

There has been a steady decline in the incidence of tuberculosis of the respiratory organs since 1912, when the disease became compulsorily notifiable. The new cases notified during the year represent a case rate of 0.51 per 1,000 population, which creates a new low record for the Borough. The decline is more noteworthy in view of the fact that the application of modern diagnostic methods to the investigation of suspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis has led to the detection of many cases which would formerly have been regarded as non-tuberculous. The distribution of the cases as to age and sex does not differ greatly from that usually observed.

The case rate for non-respiratory tuberculosis is slightly higher than in 1937, but approximates to the annual average for the preceding ten years. The prevalence of this form of the disease shows little tendency to diminish, nor can any appreciable reduction be expected until effective action is taken to eliminate known sources of infection. The latter would include raw milk, which not infrequently acts as the infecting medium, and it may be noted that from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent. of the milk samples taken in the Borough are found, on biological examination, to contain living Tubercle Bacilli. As milk enters largely into the diet of children the risk of infection is greatest in the younger age groups, and it is significant that the new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year were practically confined to these groups. This provides a further argument, if one were needed, for the compulsory pasteurisation of all milk supplies not obtained from tubercle-free herds. There would not appear to be any valid objection to pasteurisation, as it has now been authoritatively established that the process does not exert any appreciable effect on the nutritive value of the milk.

The organs affected in the non-respiratory cases were :— abdominal glands (4 cases), cervical glands (2 cases), knee-joint (2 cases), spine (1 case), leg (1 case), bowel (1 case) and kidney (1 case).

Thirty-six persons who had previously been notified as suffering from tuberculosis were removed from the Register during the year : particulars of these are as follows :—

Number of cases removed from Register by reason, inter alia, of :—	<i>Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>			<i>Total Cases.</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
1. Withdrawal of notification	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
2. Recovery from the disease	1	3	4	—	4	4	8
3. Death	7	6	13	1	—	1	14
4. Otherwise	5	4	9	2	2	4	13
Total	14	13	27	3	6	9	36

At the end of the year there remained on the Register the names of 117 persons, of whom 82 (38 males, 44 females), were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and 35 (18 males, 17 females), from tuberculosis of other organs.

Twelve deaths occurring amongst Borough residents (including deaths outside the district of persons normally resident in the Borough, but excluding deaths of temporary residents which are transferred to other districts) were certified to be due to tuberculosis. The mortality was heaviest amongst persons of middle age, but did not appear to be influenced by any conditions of occupation or environment. Many of the patients died in hospitals and sanatoria, and all had been officially notified before death as suffering from tuberculosis. The mortality rate for all forms of tuberculosis was 0.32 per 1,000 population, as compared with 0.38 in 1937 and 0.5 in each of the preceding three years. The rate for respiratory tuberculosis in particular was very greatly reduced, and has only once been lower in the past thirty years.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade).

Action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis) was called for on one occasion during the year. It was reported that a person with tuberculosis of the respiratory tract, and certified by the Tuberculosis Officer to be in an infectious

condition, was accommodated in such circumstances that proper precautions could not be taken to prevent spread of infection and that there was serious risk of infection to other persons. Accommodation in hospital had been offered and declined. The Council decided to apply to the Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order for the removal of the patient to hospital and for his detention therein under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Before this could be carried into effect the patient had left the district, as he had done previously when similar action was contemplated by another sanitary authority. To avoid delay in such cases in the future, the Council delegated their powers under Section 172 to the Public Health Committee.

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which was formed in 1935 to work in association with the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Redhill, operated very satisfactorily during the year. On many occasions the Committee was able to provide assistance, other than medical treatment, for tuberculous persons and their families, and to secure suitable employment for patients discharged from sanatoria.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Information regarding the non-notifiable infectious diseases is obtained mainly from the daily returns supplied by the School Attendance Officer, and from the weekly returns of deaths. Cases are also reported by the School Nurses, Health Visitors and Head Teachers, while a few are discovered at the Infant Welfare Clinic, and in the course of school medical inspection. The figures relating to these diseases are approximate only, and are less reliable than those given for the notifiable diseases. The procedure followed in the exclusion from, and re-admission to, school of infected persons and contacts is precisely the same as in the case of the notifiable diseases.

Influenza.

Influenza is not a notifiable condition, but the prevalence or otherwise of the disease may be judged by the number of deaths attributed to it, the number of persons notified to be suffering from 'Acute Influenzal Pneumonia' and the number of children absent or excluded from school on account of influenza. The information obtained from these sources would indicate that the incidence of the disease was unusually low. Only four deaths were certified to be due to influenza; this is equivalent to a mortality rate of

0.10, as compared with 0.71 in 1937 and an average of 0.29 for the preceding ten years. Pneumonia was not prevalent and in relatively few cases was stated to be secondary to influenza, though this may possibly have been an antecedent condition in several of the so-called 'primary' cases. Very few school children were reported to be suffering from influenza, and exclusion was rarely necessary for this reason.

Measles.

This was the most prevalent of the acute infections, and reached epidemic proportions in the spring and early summer, when non-specific catarrhal conditions were also prevalent and were readily confused with the initial symptoms of measles. Eight hundred and seventy-two cases were reported, of which more than three-fourths occurred amongst children attending elementary schools, the infants' departments being chiefly affected.

The usual action was taken to prevent spread of infection which, in the case of measles, presents extreme difficulty as patients are infectious for some time before the nature of the illness can be recognised. Suspected cases and susceptible contacts were officially excluded from school and kept under observation, while all known cases of the disease were visited to ascertain if skilled nursing at home or treatment in hospital, for which suitable arrangements have been made by the Council, appeared to be required. Six cases were treated in the Reigate Joint Hospital, including one transferred from the East Surrey Hospital.

Measles serum was not extensively used for prevention or attenuation of the disease which, on the whole, was mild in type and associated with low mortality. For the fourth year in succession no death occurring in the area was attributed to measles.

Whooping Cough.

This infection was much less prevalent than in recent years. One hundred and ten definite or suspected cases were reported, mostly in the months of March and April, when the disease not infrequently occurred in association with measles which was prevalent at that period. The infection was practically confined to children under school age and those in infants' departments, and appeared to be comparatively free from respiratory and other serious complications. No mortality from this cause was reported, though a rate of 0.03 was recorded in England and Wales and of 0.02 in towns comparable in size with Reigate.

Anthrax.

The carcase of an animal taken to a knacker's yard in the Borough was certified by a Veterinary Inspector to be affected with anthrax. The carcase had already been opened by two slaughtermen, both of whom had multiple cuts and abrasions on their hands and arms which rendered them particularly liable to infection. Both were promptly injected with anthrax serum and were required to attend daily for medical examination for the ten days following exposure. Neither contracted the disease.

Other Diseases.

The other infectious and contagious diseases reported include chicken-pox (21 cases), mumps (8 cases), impetigo (18 cases), scabies (13 cases) and ringworm (3 cases).

Disinfection.

There are facilities at the disinfecting station for the cleansing of verminous persons, and their belongings, but no case of this nature was dealt with during the year.

The disinfection of premises in which cases of infectious disease have occurred, and of articles which have been exposed to infection, is undertaken by the staff of the Public Health Department. The value of disinfection as a routine measure is open to question, as it is now generally agreed that the commoner acute infections are almost invariably conveyed by personal contact and rarely, if ever, by infected premises, bedding and clothing. Thorough domestic cleansing of the latter, followed by free exposure to fresh air, is all that is required in the majority of cases and would provide an effective substitute for routine fumigation and disinfection, which should be resorted to only in special cases. Until public opinion is educated in the matter, however, it would be inadvisable suddenly to discontinue a service which has hitherto been regarded as essential. In the meantime, disinfection might be undertaken only in special cases or at the request of the occupier of premises in which a case of infectious disease has occurred.

Full particulars of the work done during the year in connection with the disinfection of premises, and of articles which have been exposed to infection, will be found in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Bacteriological Work.

The bacteriological examination of specimens for medical practitioners in connection with infectious disease is carried out by the Pathologist at the East Surrey Hospital. Specimens may also be sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories in London.

The following specimens were examined during the year with the results indicated :—

A. SWABS EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

(a) *Diphtheria bacillus* :—

(i) Swabs from throat :—

	Result		
	Positive	Negative	Total
From suspected cases of diphtheria	4	67	71
From contacts of diphtheria ..	—	24	24
From convalescent cases of diphtheria	1	—	1

(ii) Swabs from nose :—

From suspected cases of diphtheria	—	14	14
From contacts of diphtheria ..	—	7	7

(iii) Swabs from ear :—

From suspected cases of diphtheria	4	1	5
------------------------------------	---	---	---

(b) *Other Pathogenic Organisms* :—

(i) Swabs from throat 17 51 68

(ii) Swabs from conjunctiva — 2 2

(iii) Swabs from ear 1 — 1

B. SPUTUM EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

The Tubercle Bacillus :—

(i) From suspected cases 2 19 21

C. FÆCES EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

(a) Enteric Organisms — 4 4

(b) *B. Dysenteriae* (Sonne) 10 17 27

(c) Other pathogenic organisms — 4 4

E. BLOOD EXAMINED FOR :—

(a) Widal reaction — 3 3

(b) *Brucella Abortus* — 2 2

254

SECTION VII.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity.

Ante-natal Supervision.

The medical supervision of pregnant women, who are not already receiving attention elsewhere, is undertaken at the Ante-natal Clinics, one of which is held three times a month at the Health Centre and the other once a month at the new Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at South Park. A part-time Assistant Medical Officer is in attendance at each session, and also one or two of the Health Visitors. The midwives work in close association with the Ante-natal Clinics and are usually present at the medical examination of their patients, when they are advised concerning any abnormality or unusual feature discovered in the course of the examination. The ante-natal medical record is available for the use of the midwife who has been engaged for the confinement, and it is usual for her to submit a brief report on the nature and result of the labour.

The following is a summary of the attendances at the Ante-natal Clinics :—

	<i>Health Centre.</i>	<i>South Park.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of sessions held ..	35	12	47
Number of attendances :—			
Primary	95	17	112
Subsequent	213	35	248
Average attendance per session	8.8	4.3	7.6
Individual patients attending	106	22	128

The number of individual patients seeking advice at the Ante-natal Clinics is slightly lower than in 1937, due to the reduction in domiciliary midwifery and the greater demand for admission to hospitals, where arrangements are made for ante-natal supervision. Excluding five patients who were found not to be pregnant, the number attending is equivalent to roughly 40.0 per cent., of the domiciliary live and still births in the area ; most of the other domiciliary cases were under the care of private practitioners who had been engaged for the confinement.

The co-operation of the Medical Superintendent of the Redhill County Hospital with the staff of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department has been no less close than in the past, and has been

of the utmost value in widening the scope and increasing the efficiency of welfare work amongst mothers and children. The Medical Officer of Health is informed of the name, address and expected date of confinement of every maternity patient in the Borough who has made arrangements to be admitted to the Hospital, and furnishes a report, in prescribed form, on the home conditions of the patient. The report is prepared by the Health Visitor of the district, who having become aware of the case, exercises the usual domiciliary supervision until the patient is admitted to hospital. If a Borough patient attending the Antenatal Clinic at the Hospital is certified by the Medical Superintendent to be in need of supplementary nourishment, the necessary provision is made under the Borough Council's scheme. On the patient's discharge from the Hospital the Medical Superintendent forwards to the Medical Officer of Health full details of the confinement and of special instructions given to the mother with regard to the feeding of her baby or the care of her own health ; in addition, the mother is urged to take her baby to one of the Infant Welfare Clinics, and is given a printed card with particulars of the days on which they are held.

One hundred and two women who had attended the Antenatal Clinics were confined in the area during the year ; in 98 cases, or 96.0 per cent., of the total, labour and the puerperium were reported to be normal, though two of the infants were born prematurely, in three the infants were stillborn and in one the mother was reported to have had severe post-partum haemorrhage. Two of the infants died very shortly after birth from congenital debility and malformation.

Domiciliary supervision of expectant mothers is undertaken by the Health Visitors, who advise the mother with regard to the care of her own health and as to the preparations to be made for the arrival of the infant ; they also urge the need for regular medical examination, if this has not been arranged already. Mothers are invited to attend the Mothercraft Class at the Health Centre, and are made aware of the facilities for dental and other forms of treatment provided for expectant mothers by the Borough Council. Unsatisfactory housing conditions and other environmental factors that are likely to affect the mother's health adversely are brought to the notice of the Public Health Department in order that any necessary action may be taken. The Health Visitors made a total of 400 visits to 227 expectant mothers during the year.

Post-natal Care.

Women are urged to attend for medical examination at the Post-natal Clinics a few weeks after confinement, unless they are known to be receiving attention from private practitioners, or at hospitals in which they were confined. The Post-natal Clinics are held about once a month and are attended, for the most part, by patients who have received medical supervision at the Clinic during pregnancy and have been delivered by midwives, many of whom endeavour to be present at the examination of their patients. Minor gynaecological defects are treated at the Clinics, but more serious conditions, such as those requiring surgical treatment, are referred elsewhere.

The following is a summary of the attendances at the Post-natal Clinics during the year:—

	<i>Health Centre.</i>	<i>South Park.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of sessions held ..	16	12	28
Attendances—Primary ..	26	13	39
—Subsequent ..	4	3	7
Number of individual patients attending	26	13	39

The provision of facilities for post-natal examination is a comparatively recent extension of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service. At first the numbers attending did not justify the introduction of separate sessions for post-natal work, which was carried on in conjunction with that of the Ante-natal Clinics. The value of the work is now more generally recognised, largely in consequence of the increasing attention directed to this aspect of maternal welfare by the midwives practising in the district, and attendances for post-natal examination have steadily increased. It was decided, therefore, to arrange special sessions for the purpose and to require patients seeking advice on contraceptive methods to attend a separate session on the same afternoon. This arrangement has been highly satisfactory and has not only been economical on staff, but has also relieved the pressure of work at the Ante-natal Clinics and so obviated an increase in sessions which would otherwise have been required. In addition, it has undoubtedly encouraged the attendance of new patients; the number of individual mothers dealt with shows an increase of ten, and represents 38.6 per cent. of those who attended the Ante-natal Clinics and were confined during the year, as against 35.0 per cent. in 1937.

It may be necessary in the future to consider the advisability of making better provision for the treatment of major gynaecological defects, which cannot be dealt with at the Post-natal Clinics, and for the direct admission to hospital of patients requiring operative treatment, but extension on these lines would not appear to be called for at the present time.

Birth Control.

Advice on contraceptive methods is given to married women who are either expectant or nursing mothers and whose health or lives would be endangered by further pregnancy. Patients attend by appointment, and suitable arrangements are made to secure effective separation of these patients from those attending the Clinics for other purposes. Cases are carefully selected, and advice is restricted to those in which pregnancy is absolutely contra-indicated on medical grounds and would be terminated at an early stage as a therapeutic measure. In a few cases, however, control rather than prevention is called for, the object being to regulate conception to ensure reasonable intervals between successive pregnancies. The arrangements made and methods adopted are in most respects similar to those described in previous reports.

Thirty patients sought advice during the year, of whom three were given advice only, twenty-one were fitted with suitable appliances and six were refused assistance on the grounds that they did not come within the scope of the Council's scheme. Most of the patients were referred from the Post-natal Clinic, but several attended on the advice of medical practitioners in the district. With the exception of the six patients who were not eligible for assistance, all were required to attend at regular intervals for re-examination, and from the information available it would appear that the methods employed have been effective in a very large proportion of cases.

Obstetric Consultant.

Six cases of complicated pregnancy or of abnormal labour occurring in private practice were examined by the Borough Obstetric Consultant and recommended for institutional treatment. Five were admitted to the East Surrey Hospital, under the Borough Council's scheme, and one to the Redhill County Hospital.

Midwifery and Nursing Provision.

The Borough Council paid the agreed contribution to the Reigate and Redhill District Nursing Association in respect of 68 midwifery cases, and 114 maternity nursing cases. The staff of this Association did not undertake the nursing of any cases of infectious disease under the arrangement made by the Council.

Hospital and Nursing Home Provision.

No alteration has been made in the arrangements for the admission to hospital of maternity patients requiring institutional treatment on account of abnormality or complication arising during pregnancy, labour or the puerperium. Such patients are admitted to the East Surrey Hospital on the advice of the Borough Obstetric Consultant (except in cases where the doctor attending the patient is satisfied that the services of the Consultant are not required) and remain under his care while they are in hospital.

Six patients were admitted to hospital during the year under the Council's scheme. Five were recommended for admission by the Obstetric Consultant and one by the medical practitioner attending the patient. Three were cases of obstructed delivery, two of ante-partum haemorrhage and one of cardiac complication arising during pregnancy. Four of the patients were delivered of living infants (in two cases following operative interference) and all recovered satisfactorily, excepting one who contracted puerperal sepsis and died two weeks after her confinement.

In addition to the above, one patient was examined by the Obstetric Consultant and was later admitted to the Redhill County Hospital, where she died from obstetric shock.

Provision has also been made for the accommodation in certain nursing homes of normal maternity patients whose home conditions are unsuitable for a confinement. This service has never been used, and is not likely to be required in the future in view of the excellent accommodation now available for maternity patients at the Redhill County Hospital.

Maternal Mortality.

The two maternal deaths occurring in the area were of women who had been examined by the Obstetric Consultant and removed to hospital on his recommendation. One of the deaths was attributed to puerperal sepsis and one to other puerperal causes. The maternal mortality rate for the year was 3.84 per 1,000 total (i.e. live and still) births, as compared with 2.97 for England and Wales.

Births.

Nine hundred and seventy-eight live births took place in the area, of which 494 were to mothers who had come into the Borough from other districts for their confinements. The total number exceeds any previously recorded, due to the great increase in the number of non-Borough cases confined at the Redhill County Hospital. Six hundred and seventy-six births took place in public institutions or private nursing homes ; this is equivalent to 69.1 per cent. of the total, as compared with 57.9 in the previous year and 47.7 in 1936.

Nine hundred and thirty-five, or 95.6 per cent., of the births were officially notified, a slight advance on the corresponding figures for 1937 and 1936 which were 94.1 and 93.8 respectively. Particulars of the notifications are as follows :—

	<i>Borough residents.</i>	<i>Non- residents.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Notified by doctors	154	84	238
Notified by doctors and nurses	100	10	110
Notified by midwives and nurses	199	387	586
	—	—	—
Total	453	481	934
	—	—	—

The nett live births accredited to the area by the Registrar-General were 501, of which 478 were legitimate, and 23 illegitimate.

Still-births.

The total number of still-births, including 2 notified by the local Registrar, was 43. Thirty-four took place in hospitals or private nursing homes, where all necessary facilities were available for the confinement. Most of the remainder were investigated by the Health Visitors, who reported that skilled attention had been provided at delivery in each case and that all the mothers had received adequate ante-natal care during the later months of pregnancy. In most cases the death of the infant before delivery was attributed to prolonged labour, disease or ill-health of the mother or accident during pregnancy.

The nett still-births assigned to the area by the Registrar-General were 19, of which 10 were of males and 9 of females. This is equivalent to a rate of 36.5 per 1,000 total births, which approximates to the average for recent years.

Child Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

There are two Infant Welfare Clinics in the district, both of which are under the control of the Borough Council. One is held three times a week at the Health Centre, and the other twice weekly at the new Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at South Park. Each session is conducted by a Medical Officer, with the assistance of the Health Visitor of the district and, in the case of South Park Clinic, of Nurse Banks, who is employed by a Voluntary Committee.

At both Clinics very valuable assistance is rendered by voluntary workers who undertake such duties as the registering of patients, the ordering and dispensing of medicines, etc., prescribed by the Medical Officer and the sale of model baby garments and wool at reduced prices. Through the generosity of the Voluntary Workers' Committees, financial assistance is available for certain services which are not provided by the Borough Council, including the provision of boots, clothing and surgical appliances, treatment in convalescent homes and travelling expenses to hospitals in London. In addition, extra nourishment and dental treatment are provided for mothers who are not eligible for assistance under the Council's scheme.

Particulars of attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics during the year are as follows :—

	<i>Health Centre.</i>	<i>South Park.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of Sessions	128	85	213
Average attendance per Session	42	34	39
Number of children who attended during the year and who, at the end of the year were :—			
Under 1 year of age	154	63	217
Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	503	215	718
	—	—	—
Total	657	278	935
	—	—	—

Total attendances by children :—

Under 1 year	..	..	2263	1125	3388
1—5 years	..	..	3062	1755	4817
Total	..	..	5325	2880	8205

Total number of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were :—

Under 1 year of age	..	193	72	265
1—2 years	..	27	4	31
2—3	..	18	7	25
3—4	..	20	4	24
4—5	..	10	5	15
Total	..	268	92	360

No alteration has been made in the routine of the Clinics, except that patients were required to attend less frequently than in the past, in order that long periods of waiting might, as far as possible, be prevented, and that a greater number of individual patients could be dealt with in the course of the year. To some extent this object was achieved, as there was a reduction in the total attendances and in the average attendance per session, accompanied by an increase of 44 in the number of individual children brought to the Clinics. The 44 included 27 under one year and 17 over that age, and were fairly evenly divided between the two Clinics. The number of infants who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were under one year shows an increase of 23 and is equivalent to 52.8 per cent., of the nett live births assigned to the area, as compared with 50.9 per cent., in 1937.

On several occasions attention has been drawn to the tendency on the part of mothers to discontinue their visits to the Infant Welfare Clinic when their children reach the age of twelve months. In a few instances this is due to the fact that the mother is pre-occupied with the care of younger children, or is obliged to go out to work, or is unable, through illness, to continue her visits. In most cases, however, it is probable that she feels competent to

supervise the health of her child when once the difficulties associated with early infancy have been successfully overcome, and considers that the attention of a doctor is unnecessary after that time, except in case of illness. As most of the physical defects observed in children on their admission to school are preventable, and have their origin in the pre-school period, it is of the utmost importance that children should be under regular medical supervision until they enter school, when they automatically come under the care of the School Medical Service. One of the most noteworthy features of child welfare work in the Borough in recent years has been the greater attention directed to children between the ages of one and five years, and the increasing numbers of these in attendance at the Infant Welfare Clinics which, in the absence of nursery schools or classes, provide the only organised means of ensuring adequate medical supervision of the members of this group. It is estimated that roughly 50 per cent., of the children in the group are now in regular attendance at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

Minor Ailments Clinics.

The treatment of minor ailments occurring in children under school age is undertaken at the Minor Ailments Clinics established in connection with the School Medical Service. Treatment is confined to children who attend the Infant Welfare Clinic and are specially referred by the Medical Officer, who prescribes the necessary treatment. Sixty-three children were treated during the year and made a total of 231 attendances.

The conditions treated were as follows :—

				<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Attendances.</i>
Minor eye defects	..	..	..	16	90
Minor ear defects	..	..	..	7	46
Impetigo	..	..	..	4	7
Other skin diseases	..	..	..	5	21
Septic sores	..	..	..	2	8
Minor injuries	..	..	..	3	10
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	26	49
				—	—
			Total ..	63	231
				—	—

Ophthalmic Clinic.

Children under school age who are suffering from defective vision or squint may present themselves for examination and

treatment at the Ophthalmic Clinic at the Health Centre. In most cases the defect is discovered at the medical examination of infants at the Infant Welfare Clinic or by the Health Visitors in the course of routine domiciliary visiting. The arrangements for the ophthalmic examination and treatment of pre-school children are similar to those for children attending school, so that the continuity of treatment is preserved from the discovery of the defect until the child leaves school or is discharged as cured.

Seven new cases were examined at the Ophthalmic Clinic ; five were of refractive error, for which suitable correcting glasses were prescribed, and two were of mild defect for which optical treatment was not thought to be necessary. Four pre-school children who had been treated in previous years were re-examined and found to be making satisfactory progress. The total attendances at the Ophthalmic Clinic were 17, exclusive of those for the instillation of drops in preparation for examination by the oculist.

Dental Clinic.

Dental treatment is available at the Health Centre for expectant mothers, nursing mothers and pre-school children who are in regular attendance at the various clinics, and who are specially referred to the Dental Surgeon by the doctor conducting the clinic.

The following is a summary of the work of the Dental Clinic for the year :—

Number of sessions devoted to inspection and treatment	31
„ „ expectant mothers treated	37
„ „ nursing „ „	71
„ „ pre-school children „	112
„ „ extractions :—	
Temporary teeth	229
Permanent teeth	574
	—
	803
„ „ fillings	123
„ „ other operations	92
„ „ general anaesthetics	148
„ „ patients supplied with dentures ..	18
Total attendances :—	
Mothers	346
Children	235
	—
	581
	—

In September the Council appointed a whole-time Dental Officer to undertake the dental work of the School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Departments. From that time it was possible, without additional cost, to increase the number of sessions available for the dental treatment of mothers and children referred from the Ante-natal and Infant Welfare Clinics. The Dental Officer was thus enabled to overtake arrears of treatment and to deal more promptly with the cases referred to him.

The total number of mothers treated was 108, as against 97 in the previous year. Approximately two-thirds were nursing mothers, several of whom had been referred during the ante-natal period but were reluctant to submit to treatment during pregnancy ; others were unable to keep the appointments made for them until so far advanced in pregnancy that the administration of a general anaesthetic was considered to be inadvisable and treatment was, in consequence, postponed. Dentures were supplied at National Health Insurance rates, and patients were required to contribute to the cost in accordance with the scale approved by the Council. The dentures supplied during the year included 18 complete, and 12 partial plates.

One hundred and twelve pre-school children received dental treatment at the Health Centre, an increase of 17 on the corresponding figure for the previous year and the greatest number yet dealt with under the Child Welfare Dental Scheme. The proportion referred for treatment, and the average number of attendances and of extractions per child treated compare very favourably with previous findings and suggest a rather lower incidence and lessened severity of dental defect amongst children who are in regular attendance at the Infant Welfare Clinics. The latter are not at present subject to routine inspection by a dental surgeon, but are referred for treatment of obvious dental defects discovered in the course of medical examination. The possibility of devising a scheme for the annual dental inspection and, where necessary, treatment of pre-school children, similar to that operating in the School Dental Service, is being considered, but there is, unfortunately, no medium analagous to the school through which such a scheme could operate efficiently and economically.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

The arrangements for the treatment of crippling deformities in pre-school children are precisely the same as for children attending school. Minor defects are dealt with at the Infant Welfare Clinics

or at the Remedial Exercises Clinic, while more serious cases are referred to private practitioners or to special hospitals.

During the year one child was brought to the Infant Welfare Clinic with a severe deformity of the knee, and was referred to his own doctor. He was then examined by the orthopaedic surgeon at the East Surrey Hospital and later at St. Thomas's Hospital in London, where residential treatment in an orthopaedic hospital was advised; this was provided at the expense of the Borough Council.

Provision of Milk, etc.

Additional nourishment in the form of dried milk, preparations of cod-liver oil, etc., is supplied to expectant mothers, nursing mothers and children who are regularly attending the Ante-natal and Infant Welfare Clinics, and are thought to require it on medical grounds. Supplies are given free or at a reduced price, depending on the financial circumstances of the patient, and are ordered and repeated only on the advice of the doctor conducting the clinic. The numbers of patients who received assistance during the year are as follows :—

Expectant mothers	..	..	..	..	28
Nursing mothers	..	..	..	..	24
Infants	..	..	..	..	155
					—
Total					207
					—

In addition to the above, the Voluntary Workers Committees supplied 880 pints of milk to 40 mothers and 830 pints to 9 infants who were not eligible for assistance under the Council's scheme. Many of these cases came to notice otherwise than through the Clinics, and required assistance because of poverty rather than ill-health.

Child Life Protection.

Persons in the area who propose to undertake the care and maintenance of foster-children must give notice to the Medical Officer of Health within the prescribed period. An applicant is not approved unless the Sanitary Inspector and the Child Protection Visitor report that the environment in which the child is to be kept is, in all respects, satisfactory, and that the applicant is a fit and proper person to have the care of a foster child. The home supervision of foster-children is undertaken by the Child Protection Visitors; cases presenting difficulty are reported to

the Medical Officer of Health, who has been authorised to exercise the powers of a Child Protection Visitor, and to institute proceedings for, and on behalf of, the Borough Council in respect of any contravention of the Act. Foster-children of school age are subject to regular medical examination at school and at the Health Centre, while most of those under school age are brought regularly to the Infant Welfare Clinic.

The ascertainment of foster-children in the area is reasonably complete and, on the whole, the legal requirements relating to them are strictly observed. The few instances of failure to give sufficient notice of intention to receive a foster-child were explained by the fact that the child was received in an emergency and longer notice could not be given.

It was reported during the year that a child had been received by a foster-mother who, by reason of old age, was quite unfit to have care of it, and that the premises in which the child was kept were most unsatisfactory. The child was promptly returned to its parents on the foster-mother being informed of the intention of the Council to apply for an Order for the child's removal. It was also reported that a registered foster-mother had been found to be unfit to act in that capacity, and the Medical Officer of Health was authorised to forbid her to take foster-children in the future.

The results of medical examination and the reports submitted from time to time by the Child Protection Visitors provide ample proof that the foster-children in the area are very well cared for, and that those having charge of them are genuinely interested in their welfare. In many cases a foster-child is received as a companion for other children in the family and in few is the payment for the child's maintenance a primary consideration.

The following particulars are taken from the Register of Foster-children :—

Number of foster-children on Register at the beginning				
	of the year	..	..	24
„	added to the Register during the year	..		33
„	removed from the Register :—			
	On reaching the age of nine years	..	3	
	„ leaving the district	..	12	
	„ returning to parents	..	27	
			—	42
„	of foster-children on Register at the end of			
	the year	..	15	
„	of approved foster-mothers in the district	..	41	
Visits to foster-children	..	..	166	

Domiciliary Visits.

The numbers of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year are set out in the following summary :—

Expectant mothers :—

Primary Visits	..	..	..	176
Subsequent Visits	..	..	..	224
				— 400

Infants under 12 months :—

Primary Visits	..	..	..	518
Subsequent Visits	..	..	..	1,895
				— 2,413

Children aged 1—5 years :—

Total visits	..	..	..	4,112
--------------	----	----	----	-------

Foster-children :—

Total visits	..	..	..	166
--------------	----	----	----	-----

Visits to cases of infectious disease :—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	—
Pneumonia	..	..	19
Scarlet Fever	} in infants under 5 years of age		4
Diphtheria			1
Whooping Cough			83
Measles			262
Chicken Pox			6
			— 375

Visits to :—

Still births	..	..	..	16
Infant deaths	..	..	..	6
Other visits	..	..	..	754
				— 776

Grand Total 8,243

Mothercraft.

Instruction in mothercraft and infant care is included in the hygiene course for senior school girls and is given at the Health Centre by one of the Health Visitors. Girls in their last term at school attend six lessons, each of one hour's duration, and are taught the elementary principles of infant care and management. The teaching is illustrated by diagrams and models, and by practical demonstrations in which the girls are encouraged to take part. At the end of each course the girls visit an Infant Welfare Clinic while the work is in progress, and the arrangements made by the

local authority for supervising the health of mothers and young children are explained to them.

Four courses of instruction were given during the year and were attended by one hundred and thirty-six girls. Of those attending six were selected to compete for the Rhondda Mothercraft Challenge Shield for Elementary School Girls, and four were awarded pass certificates. The best entry from the Borough gained sixth place in England and Wales.

A class for mothers is held at the Health Centre on Monday afternoons, and is conducted by one of the Health Visitors. The mothers are instructed in matters relating to their own health, and in the care, feeding, clothing, and general management of infants and young children. Short talks are also given on subjects such as general hygiene, dietetics and catering for the family, cleanliness, exercise, prevention of the common infections, treatment of minor ailments, etc., which are likely to be of interest and of practical value to the working-class mother. Forty mothers attended the class during the year and made a total of 575 attendances. Several entered for the various competitive and non-competitive examinations in mothercraft, particulars of which are as follows :—

National Parentcraft Competition.—Fifteen parents from the Reigate Centre entered for this competition, which is open to all affiliated Centres in the United Kingdom. The best entry in each of eight classes was forwarded to the Headquarters of the Association of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and out of fifty Centres competing Reigate gained second place and was awarded the Silver Challenge Cup.

The candidates by whom the entries were submitted gained the following Certificates of the Association :—

Mothercraft (written paper)	..	Honours Certificate.
Needlework	..	..
Reconstructed garment ..	..	..
Mending and Fastenings	..	..
Knitting and Crochet ..	..	..
Fathercraft (written paper)	..	..
Theoretical Cookery ..	..	..
Practical Cookery ..	..	First Class Certificate.

A special First Class Certificate was awarded to Miss M. Dallard (Health Visitor) for an essay on ' Child Psychology.'

Rhondda Mothercraft Challenge Shield.—Seventy-five Centres in England and Wales competed in this examination. The best entry from the Reigate Centre secured fourth place and a Credit Certificate with a total of 92 marks out of a possible 100. The highest number of marks awarded in the competition was 96, so that only four marks divided the first four Centres.

Non-competitive Parentcraft Examination.—Seven parents from the Reigate Centre entered for this examination and were awarded Certificates in their respective classes, five being Credit Certificates.

Collective teaching in mothercraft is a very important aspect of health education, and is one of the most valuable activities of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service. The awards gained during the year demonstrate quite clearly that the teaching reached a very high standard, and reflect great credit on Miss M. Dallard, who was solely responsible for the instruction given at the Centre and for the preparation of candidates for the various examinations.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1938.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, REIGATE.

June, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my Fifth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors.

During 1938, there has been a revision of the law relating to Factories, which has imposed additional duties on Local Authorities. Administration of the new Act can only be carried out with success if there is co-operation between Factory Inspectors and the Inspectors appointed by Local Authorities, and I am pleased to report that there is frequent interchange of information with H.M. Inspector of Factories for this area on the various sections of the new Act in which we are both interested.

Routine work has been hindered to some extent by duties which have devolved on members of this department in connection with Air Raid Precautions and Civil Defence, particularly during September, 1938, but in spite of this the number of routine and other inspections has been well maintained. This, however, has only been done by a considerable amount of work outside the normal office hours. Increased inspectorial work entails additional clerical work, and as the existing small clerical staff is already fully engaged, inspectors are obliged to spend time on clerical work which could be employed to better advantage in other ways.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all my colleagues for their assistance and co-operation, and especially to Dr. Bingham, the Medical Officer of Health, for the help and kindly consideration extended to me.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. JANES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

During the year, 194 visits have been made in connection with cases of infectious disease. The investigation into each new case is made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health, and involves interviews with relatives in charge of the patient, contacts, or parents of contacts. A full report on each case is made to the Medical Officer to assist in preventing the spread of disease. Where cases are treated at home, further visits are necessary to see that isolation is being observed.

Disinfection of all infected rooms is carried out when the patient is removed to hospital or, in the case of patients treated at home, when they are certified to be free from infection. Rooms are treated by spraying with formaldehyde, and bedding, clothing, etc., is subjected to steam disinfection at the Council's Disinfecting Station at the Disposal Works, Redhill. This work involved 364 visits to houses by the Disinfecting Officer.

The steam disinfector, which was installed in 1912, is now in almost daily use. The reports submitted by the Chief Engineer of the National Boiler Insurance Company Limited on the results of his periodical examinations show that the apparatus is in satisfactory working order. It was found necessary to overhaul thoroughly all steam pipes and valves.

Library books found in infected houses are disinfected by formalin vapour. The proprietors of some libraries prefer to surrender such books, and these are taken to the Isolation Hospital for the use of the patients. During the year, 106 books were disinfected and returned to the libraries from which they had been borrowed.

The disinfection of articles removed from houses in the area of the Dorking and Horley Rural District Council has continued to be carried out at our Disinfecting Station ; an agreed charge of 7/6d. per lot is made for this work.

The following Table shows the number of rooms and articles disinfected :—

DISEASE.	REIGATE BOROUGH.										DORKING AND HORLEY R.D.C.									
	BEDDING.				CLOTHING, &c.				Total.	BEDDING.				CLOTHING, &c.				Total		
	Beds.	Mattresses and Palliasses.	Bolsters and Pillows.	Sheets and Blankets.	Quilts and Counterpanes.	Carpets, Rugs and Mats.	Curtains, Toilet Covers and Towels.	Clothing.		Other Articles.	Beds.	Mattresses and Palliasses.	Bolsters and Pillows.	Sheets and Blankets.	Quilts and Counterpanes.	Carpets, Rugs and Mats.	Curtains, Toilet Covers and Towels.		Clothing.	Other Articles.
Diphtheria	1	21	47	78	19	7	9	36	13	231	11	-	-	-	-	1	10	53	18	177
Scarlet Fever ..	8	47	93	218	58	30	83	229	79	845	37	1	2	1	-	7	18	68	61	405
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	-	11	12	25	12	1	7	32	13	113	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis ..	4	25	57	84	24	6	47	41	33	321	40	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Cancer	6	8	24	17	9	-	8	34	17	123	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermin	13	58	116	216	47	49	70	435	189	1193	84	-	-	-	-	1	7	2	1	19
Miscellaneous ..	9	109	359	403	18	13	35	108	178	1232	43	1	1	1	6	1	-	-	3	16
TOTAL ..	41	279	708	1041	187	106	259	915	522	4058	225	3	3	2	7	10	35	123	83	619

Verminous Houses.

During the year 18 houses were disinfested, owing to the presence of bugs, compared with 16 houses in 1937 ; six of the houses were owned by the Corporation. The furniture and effects of three families were disinfested prior to removal to Council houses.

Disinfestation has been carried out by the use of a proprietary fumigant or, in suitable cases, a liquid insecticide. Bedding, etc., has been treated in the Council's steam disinfector.

The assistance of the Department was sought in the case of one house infested by fleas. This was successfully dealt with by spraying with a liquid insecticide.

In five houses (including two Corporation houses) an infestation by cockroaches was dealt with by repeated applications of liquid and powder insecticides, which gave satisfactory results.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Inspection of meat at slaughterhouses has necessitated 1,400 visits. Animals are slaughtered usually at regular times during the week, and the inspections are made during the late afternoon and evening. Twenty-four notifications were received from butchers of occasional or emergency slaughtering.

There were no changes during the year of the occupation of the twelve private slaughterhouses, two of which are licensed, the remainder being registered. The owner of an old registered slaughterhouse was persuaded to submit plans for the erection of a new building instead of carrying out alterations to the existing dilapidated structure. The demolition of the slaughterhouse and the erection of the new building on the same site was carried out in August, 1938.

Frequent visits have been made to butchers' shops for the purpose of meat inspection, particular attention being paid to carcasses which may have been brought in from neighbouring districts and may not have been inspected.

No serious infringements of the Regulations have been noted.

The following is a record of the animals slaughtered, and of the carcasses, offals, etc., which were surrendered and destroyed in consequence of inspection.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed	372	—	441	2,395	2,643
Number inspected . .	372	—	441	2,395	2,643
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	1	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	28	—	—	9	31
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis . .	7.53%	—	0.00%	0.42%	1.36%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY—					
Whole carcasses con- demned	1	—	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	1	—	60
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis . .	3.76%	—	0.23%	0.00%	2.42%

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Frequent visits are paid to slaughterhouses at the time of slaughter. It was found on several occasions that certain slaughtermen did not use a humane killer when slaughtering sheep. As there appeared to be some misunderstanding on this point, a circular letter was sent to all butchers using local slaughterhouses requesting them to inform their employees that all animals must be slaughtered or stunned by means of a mechanically operated instrument in good repair. This reminder had the desired effect, and also resulted in several instruments being satisfactorily replaced.

Renewals of annual licences were granted to 34 slaughtermen, whilst one new licence was issued.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The entries in the registers required to be kept in accordance with the Order, and the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, may be summarised as follows :—

Cowkeepers	16
Dairymen and Retail Purveyors, with premises in the Borough	14
Retail Purveyors, with premises outside the Borough ..	16
Retail Purveyors—bottled milk only sold in general shops	11
Cowsheds	17
Dairies (including 3 milkshops)	18

Milkshops are attached to dairy premises in 10 instances. The number of producer-retailers is 18. One hundred and fifty-four inspections of milk premises were made during the year. The premises generally were found to be in a satisfactory condition, but it is necessary from time to time to draw attention to carelessness on the part of employees in their methods of handling milk or cleansing equipment and utensils. In one instance a roundsman was found bottling milk in the street. This case was dealt with by the issue of a caution to the dairyman and employee concerned, and the matter was made the subject of a circular letter to all dairymen who were advised to take the necessary steps to see that this very undesirable practice could not occur.

Sterilising equipment was installed or extended at five dairies during the year. One dairy was improved by reconstruction of the washing room. One cowshed was structurally altered to conform with the requirements made following an application for a Tuberculin Tested licence, and at the end of the year one cowshed was in course of re-construction in respect of an Accredited licence.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

A detailed report on 113 samples of milk taken in 1938 is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

The samples are taken at the retailers' premises on arrival of the milk from the farms, and, whenever possible, morning's milk is selected for sampling. They are then carried immediately to the laboratory of the Clinical Research Association Ltd., London, where they are submitted to bacteriological and biological examination.

Copies of the reports are sent to the dairymen concerned for their information, and to the Sanitary Inspectors of the districts in which the milk is produced. This procedure definitely assists in the maintenance of a clean milk supply. Where biological examination establishes the presence of tubercle bacilli, the County Medical Officer of Health and the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture are informed immediately.

Tuberculosis Orders, 1925 and 1938.

On 1st April, 1938, the 1925 Order was replaced by the Tuberculosis Order of 1938, and Local Authorities ceased to carry out certain duties which had previously been placed upon them. This coincided with the re-organisation of public veterinary services, which from the same date were transferred from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture.

During the first quarter of the year, one cow was notified by the County Veterinary Officer as giving tuberculous milk. It was discovered as a result of routine milk sampling carried out by this Department. The animal was slaughtered, and post-mortem examination proved that the disease was "advanced" and that the udder was affected.

During the remainder of the year one cow was dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Diseases of Animals Acts—Disinfection.

Disinfection of vehicles is carried out at the Redhill Market each Monday by the Disinfecting Officer in accordance with the following Orders :—

Swine Fever Order of 1912.

Transit of Animals (Amendment) Order of 1931.

During 1938, 622 vehicles were dealt with.

In November assistance and advice was given to the Police in disposing of a cow carcase at the Knackers Yard, Whitebushes, found to be suffering from anthrax. The carcase had been opened, so that contamination was serious and extensive. The necessary disinfection of the premises and infected material was carried out by this Department.

Food Shops, Storage, etc.

Under Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1925, 268 inspections were made of the shops where food supplies are stored and sold. In accordance with Section 79 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1925, 45 inspections were made of premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold.

The Register of these premises now includes the following :—

Grocers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	86
Butchers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	40
Fruiterers and Greengrocers			..	..	..	45
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers			..	..	..	26
Confectioners (where ice-cream is sold)				..	..	54
Restaurants, Cafes, etc. (includes 25 ice-cream premises)						42

Particular attention is paid during inspection to the cleanliness of the premises, the condition of foodstuffs stored and exposed for sale, the protection given to exposed foodstuffs liable to contamination and the methods employed for the storage and disposal of refuse. Attention is also given to the requirements of other Acts affecting shops, the administration of which are reported upon under other headings.

The following foodstuffs have been surrendered and destroyed :—

Imported Beef	..	..	..	13¼ lbs.
Imported Lamb	..	..	..	42 lbs.
Tinned ham	..	..	..	17 lbs.
Pollock	..	..	..	168 lbs.
Kippers	..	..	..	22 doz. pairs.
Strawberries	..	..	..	173 tins.
Chicken	..	..	..	One—3½ lbs.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

(Ed. Hinks, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C., Public Analyst.)

FOODSTUFFS.	SAMPLES TAKEN.				Total.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
	First quarter.	Second quarter.	Third quarter.	Fourth quarter.			
Beer	—	—	—	5	5	4	1
Butter	4	—	—	4	8	8	—
Cheese	6	—	—	—	6	6	—
Carton Cheddar Cheese ..	—	—	—	6	6	—	6
Flour, Self Raising ..	6	—	—	—	6	6	—
Margarine ..	2	—	—	2	4	4	—
Milk	6	18	6	22	52	46	6
Pepper	—	—	—	6	6	6	—
Sausages, Beef	—	—	3	—	3	3	—
„ Pork	—	—	3	—	3	3	—
Sugar, Brown	—	—	6	—	6	3	3
Vinegar, Malt	—	—	—	6	6	6	—
Whiskey ..	—	—	—	3	3	3	—
TOTAL ..	24	18	18	54	114	98	16

In addition to the above, four samples of milk were taken “ in course of delivery ” at a local farm at the request of a Sampling Officer of the Surrey County Council.

Of the six milk samples which were adversely reported upon, one was deficient in milk fat to the extent of 3 per cent., and the vendor was cautioned ; one had a similar deficiency of 5 per cent. In this case the vendor requested that samples be taken in course of delivery from the producer. Six samples were taken accordingly, two of which proved to be deficient in milk fat to the extent of 13 and 5 per cent. respectively. After investigation it was thought advisable to refer this case to the County Agricultural Organiser.

In another instance the Public Analyst reported that the deficiency corresponded to the abstraction of 39 per cent. of the milk fat. This sample consisted of two glasses of milk purchased at a restaurant, and the deficiency was undoubtedly due to carelessness in mixing milk sold from bottles. Legal proceedings were instituted against the vendor, who was fined £1 and costs. A similar sample taken at another restaurant revealed a deficiency of 40 per cent. of the milk fat. At this restaurant two samples were purchased, and the whole consisted of the contents of a quart bottle. One contained 7.08 per cent. milk fat, as against 1.78 per cent. in the other. For legal and technical reasons proceedings were not instituted but the vendor was cautioned.

Three samples of brown sugar were reported as containing compounds of tin expressed as metallic tin to the extent of 0.4, 0.5 and 0.7 grain per pound respectively. Correspondence with the vendors resulted in an explanatory letter being received from the Secretary of the West India Committee. Having regard to the circumstances and a decision reached on appeal in a case instituted by another authority, no further action was taken.

The samples of carton cheddar cheese were taken informally towards the end of the year. The Public Analyst stated in each case that he was of opinion that the sample consisted of processed whole milk cheese containing an emulsifier and more water than is customary with true cheddar. He observed that true cheddar cheese is not prepared by a process involving the addition of an emulsifier. At the end of the year correspondence was proceeding with certain manufacturers on the questions of description and labelling.

One sample of beer was reported to contain lead in the proportion of one-tenth of a grain per gallon. The beer was purchased at a public-house where rubber pipes were used for drawing the beer, with one exception, an old lead pipe which had been recently brought into use. Pressure brought to bear on the brewers in this case has resulted in all lead pipes used in their various houses in the Borough being discarded in favour of glass or stainless

steel. The possibility of lead contamination in beer was brought to the notice of all licensed victuallers in the Borough, who were advised to have substituted a more satisfactory material where lead was at present in use. Pending replacement, they were advised as to the proper methods to be employed in cleansing such pipes.

Bakehouses.

At the end of the year the number on the Register was 29, 18 being with mechanical power, 7 without mechanical power, and 4 retail bakehouses. This figure is 4 more than in 1937. All the premises were cleansed at least twice during the year. Seventy-four visits of inspection were made.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.

The following imported goods are required to be marked on exposure for sale by an indication of origin :—honey, fresh apples, currants, sultanas and raisins, eggs (dried and in shell), oat products, raw tomatoes, frozen and chilled salmon and sea trout, butter, dead poultry, bacon and ham, and chilled and frozen meat.

One hundred and ninety-two inspections have been paid to food premises in connection with the Orders-in-Council made under the above-named Act. This considerable increase in inspection has been responsible for the Orders being more closely observed. It was necessary to give a written caution to a meat trader, who did not appear to realise his responsibilities under the statute.

Shops Act, 1934.

Section 10 of this Act requires, inter alia, the provision and maintenance of "suitable and sufficient" means of ventilation and heating, and the maintenance of a reasonable temperature in every part of a shop (retail and wholesale shops, and warehouses) in which persons are employed. There shall also be provided and maintained suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

The ambiguous wording employed in this Section renders administration extremely difficult, and calls for considerable tact and discretion on the part of the inspecting officials.

The Register of shops in the Borough affected by the Act now contains particulars of 439 premises ; 223 of these were recorded during 1938. In addition to this number of inspections, 62 re-inspections were made.

The sanitary conveniences at 7 premises were found to be unsuitable, insufficient, or defective. Three cases were remedied by the installation of additional W.C.s (one following the service of a statutory notice), thus securing separate accommodation

for both sexes employed at the shops, and in 3 instances suitable alternative arrangements were made. A statutory notice issued in December had not been complied with at the end of the year.

At 8 shops, the owner's attention was drawn to the fact that there was no means of heating, and that a reasonable temperature could not be maintained. This was satisfactorily provided in all cases.

Public Health Act, 1936—Offices.

In accordance with the suggestion contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 1600, dated 1st May, 1937, the systematic inspection of offices was commenced towards the end of the year. The Register which it is proposed to compile contained at the end of 1938 particulars of 23 offices. It is estimated that there are approximately 150 such premises in the Borough.

The Factories Act, 1937.

This Act came into force on 1st July, 1938. It is a consolidating Act, but at the same time the law has been considerably amended to conform with modern conditions of industry. The old distinction between a factory and a workshop has been abolished, and all premises affected by the Act are called "factories." In general, the sanitary conditions of factories where mechanical power is not used, i.e. "workshops" under the old Act, continue to be supervised by Local Authorities. The provisions relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories are also enforceable by Local Authorities, who are charged, too, with the examination and certification of certain factories as respects means of escape in case of fire.

This new legislation necessitates a complete revision of the Registers kept under the old Act. The records have been altered and are being brought up to date accordingly. There has been co-operation with H.M. Inspector of Factories for this area in connection with registers and other matters, which is desirable in order to facilitate administration and avoid overlapping.

The Table appended shows in detail the various trades that come within the scope of the Act. During the year 157 inspections were made. In addition 13 inspections were made in company with the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade in connection with Section 34 (means of escape in case of fire). Twelve certificates were issued by the Council in accordance with that Section.

Four lists of outworkers were received, affecting 3 outworkers, i.e., persons who received from the occupier of any factory work to be done in their own homes.

Two notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories drawing attention to infringements of the Act, remediable by the Council.

<i>Business.</i>	<i>Mechanical Power.</i>	<i>No Mechanical Power.</i>
Advertisement Artists...	1	1
Agricultural Implement Works..	1	—
Art Leather Worker ..	1	1
Art Needleworker ..	—	2
Automobile Engineers..	15	10
Bakers ..	18	11
Book Binder ..	—	1
Boot Makers and Repairers ..	8	12
Brick Makers, etc. ..	1	—
Builders and Contractors ..	2	18
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers ..	4	8
Carpet Beaters ..	1	—
Carton Manufacturers..	1	—
Coach Builders and Wheelwrights ..	—	1
Cycle Makers and Repairers ..	1	4
Dairyman ..	1	—
Dressmakers and Milliners ..	—	12
Dry Cleaners..	1	2
Electrical Engineers ..	1	2
Engineers ..	3	1
French Polishers ..	—	1
Gas Works ..	1	—
Interior Decorations ..	1	—
Jam and Essence Makers ..	1	—
Laundries ..	3	6
Log Sawing ..	2	—
Marquee Manufacturers ..	—	1
Mineral Water Manufacturers ..	2	—
Monumental Masons ..	1	3
Oil Refining ..	1	—
Photographers and Picture Frame Makers ..	—	2
Pianoforte Repairers ..	—	1
Plumbers ..	—	7
Polish Powder Manufacturers ..	1	—
Portable Building do. ..	1	1
Printers ..	7	2
Road and Sewer Contractors ..	1	1
Saddlers ..	—	4
Sheet Metal Workers ..	1	2
Shoeing and General Smiths ..	1	2
Shop Fitters ..	1	1
Sign Writer ..	—	1
Tailors ..	—	12
Tanner ..	1	—
Tennis Racquet Manufacturer ..	—	1
Timber Merchants ..	1	1
Tile Making ..	2	1
Undertakers ..	1	2
Vulcanising and Cycle Repair ..	—	1
Watchmakers ..	—	5
Wax Refining Works ..	1	—
TOTALS ..	91	144

Housing.

During 1938, 249 houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing Act, 1936, and the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ; the accompanying Table sets out particulars of the conditions found on inspection, which have been extracted from the records made. The houses dealt with included the following :—

REIGATE :—

Ledbury Road	..	..	..	..	14
Oakhill Road ..	..	..	..	..	5
St. Mark's Street	..	..	..	..	9
Woodhatch Road	..	..	..	..	1

REDHILL :—

Brighton Road..	..	..	..	..	1
Chapel Road ..	..	..	..	..	8
Common Road	..	..	..	..	2
Earlswood Road	..	..	..	..	1
Garlands Road..	..	..	..	..	93
Gloucester Road	..	..	..	..	4
Horley Road ..	..	..	..	..	4
Lower Road, Meadvale	..	..	..	..	27
Lower Bridge Road	..	..	..	..	17
Monson Road ..	..	..	..	..	9
Ranelagh Road	..	..	..	..	48

MERSTHAM :—

Quarry Cottages	..	..	..	..	6
-----------------	----	----	----	----	---

TOTAL	..	249
-------	----	-----

Table showing Conditions found on Inspection in accordance with the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.

Houses inspected	..	..	..	..	249
Rooms measured	..	..	..	..	1,436
Houses occupied by one family	..	..	..	..	189
Houses occupied by one family and lodgers	..	..	..	..	20
Houses sub-let	..	..	..	..	38
Houses unoccupied	..	..	..	..	2

Number of Houses in which the following Items of Disrepair or
Sanitary Defects were discovered :—

<i>Disrepair.</i>						
Roofs						30
Chimney stacks .. .						21
Gutters and stackpipes .. .						50
External walls .. .						71
Internal walls and ceilings—						
Defective .. .						83
Dirty .. .						106
Floors .. .						79
Skirting boards .. .						7
Doors and door frames and sills .. .						38
Windows—						
Woodwork .. .						37
Sash cords .. .						34
Putty and glazing .. .						8
Fittings .. .						18
Fixing .. .						4
Ranges and firegrates .. .						31
Staircases .. .						14
<i>Sanitary Defects.</i>						
Air Space .. .						—
Ventilation .. .						12
Sub-floor ventilation .. .						13
Darkness .. .						19
Dampness .. .						93
Water supply .. .						1
Food Store .. .						10
Closet accommodation—						
Compartment .. .						1
Fittings .. .						39
Absence of suitable accommodation .. .						—
Sink—						
Defective or insanitary .. .						23
Untrapped waste pipe .. .						19
Storage of house refuse .. .						13

Drainage—

Pipes	48
Manholes, interceptors, gullies, F.A.I's., etc. ..	79
Insufficient	1
Insufficient ventilation	16
Drains blocked	4
Washing accommodation	19

Yard paving—

Defective or improperly drained surface	69
Insufficient	17

The above figures include re-inspections of houses inspected under the Housing Regulations.

In addition, 192 houses were inspected wholly or partially on complaint or for some special reason, e.g., during enquiries into cases of infectious disease.

Complaints.

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year. All complaints which can be dealt with by the Department are investigated immediately and suitable action taken. Others are referred to the appropriate Department.

Insanitary condition of premises	59
House drainage	20
Defective dustbins	1
Non-removal of house refuse	14
Non-removal of trade refuse	2
Overcrowding	2
Rats or mice	106
Smells emanating from sewers and street gullies ..	11
Cesspool emptying	8
Vermin	17
Miscellaneous	44
Total ..	284

Notices Issued and Action taken.

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year :—

<i>Preliminary—</i>	<i>Housing.</i>	<i>Others.</i>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1938 ..	104	45
Issued during year	136	132
Complied with during year ..	130	131
Statutory action necessary ..	—	2
Outstanding on 31st December, 1938 ..	110	44
<i>Statutory—</i>		
Outstanding on 1st January, 1938 ..	—	—
Issued during year	—	3
Complied with during year ..	—	2
Outstanding on 31st December, 1938 ..	—	1

Of the Housing Notices outstanding at the end of the year, 7 were time unexpired, and in 82 cases the work was in hand or partly complied with.

The above Table of Notices does not include notices issued under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year in consequence of the service of notices calling for the abatement of nuisances, or the remedying of defects found during housing inspections. The list also includes drainage works supervised following notice by builders of intention to reconstruct or repair existing drains.

Drains examined and tested (primary inspections only) ..	178
Drains relaid	60
New lengths drain laid	3
Blocked drains cleared	14
Interceptors fixed	18
New soil and vent. pipes fixed	12
Soil and vent. pipes renewed	19
Drain ventilation improved	37
New W.C.'s installed	14
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	49
W.C. flushing cisterns ditto	30
Hand-flushed W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus ..	—
Cesspools provided or enlarged	1
„ repaired or renewed	1
„ abolished	11

Existing house drains connected to public sewer	..	7
Cesspools cleansed	..	18
New lavatory basins installed	..	19
Lavatory basins renewed	..	10
Sinks renewed or repaired	..	20
Waste pipes trapped or repaired	..	39
Sink gully dishings repaired	..	15
Pail closets abolished	..	2
Urinals reconstructed	..	—
Urinals cleansed	..	8
Sanitary dustbins provided	..	19
Leaky roofs repaired	..	45
Eaves gutters and stack pipes repaired	..	29
Back yards paved or repaired	..	60
Dampness remedied	..	106
Damp-proof courses provided	..	22
Pointing, or otherwise weatherproofing, of brickwork (houses)	..	60
Ventilation and light of rooms improved	..	7
„ „ „ „ W.C. chambers improved	..	2
Public Water Supply laid on to houses	..	—
„ „ „ re-instated	..	4
Water supply pipes repaired	..	1
„ „ „ improved	..	1
Sub-floor ventilation improved	..	18
External paintwork of houses renewed	..	8
Internal paintwork of rooms renewed	..	10
Rooms cleansed	..	210
Ceilings cleansed	..	156
W.C. chambers cleansed	..	45
Cellars cleansed	..	5
Floors repaired or renewed	..	83
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired	..	78
Window frames or sashcords repaired	..	121
Doors repaired or renewed	..	25
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	..	31
Coppers renewed or repaired	..	16
Washing accommodation provided	..	3
Food-stores provided	..	3
Overcrowding suppressed	..	2

Manure receptacles renewed or repaired	..	..	2
Accumulations removed	..	..	5
Animals or poultry improperly kept	..	..	2
Other nuisances abated	..	..	108

A report was submitted to the Public Health Committee in May, 1938, on nuisances arising from the existence of three so-called sanitary conveniences on Commons controlled by the Conservators. These primitive and insanitary places have been abolished, and at the time of writing two modern brick built conveniences have been erected in suitable positions on the Commons for the benefit of the increasing number of people using these open spaces. The conveniences are properly drained and connected to the public sewer.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

During 1938, 106 complaints from 84 dwelling houses and 22 business premises of the presence of rats or mice were investigated by the Assistant Rat Officer ; in 8 cases the premises complained of were found not to be infested. In 49 instances applications were received from occupiers for assistance in the work of destruction. This assistance resulted in 42 premises being cleared of rats, while at 7 others work was in hand at the end of the year. Apart from the work actually carried out by the Assistant Rat Officer, the infestation in 44 instances was successfully dealt with by the occupiers themselves, under the direction of this Officer. Of the remainder, in 5 cases the work of destruction was in progress at the end of the year.

In 4 cases it was necessary to issue notices in accordance with Section 5 of the Act, which were complied with in 3 instances.

The case outstanding was still under consideration at the end of the year.

The above figures do not include work carried out on Corporation property. The control of infestation at the Sewage Disposal Works and Farm has continued throughout the year with satisfactory results. Useful work of destruction was carried out at 7 local farms during threshing operations, under the supervision of the Assistant Rat Officer.

Fortnightly visits of inspection continued to be made to the St. Anne's Institution, Redhill, under an arrangement made with the Public Assistance Committee.

The amount received in payment for the Officer's services has been approximately equivalent to sixty per cent. of his salary.

During National Rat Week, 7th to 12th November, 1938, the usual publicity was given to the question of rat destruction by means of posters and newspaper advertisements.

Knacker's Yard.

The licensed knacker's yard at Whitebushes has been visited frequently. The business is conducted satisfactorily and no complaints have been received, in spite of the proximity of a new housing estate.

Public Mortuaries.

During the year bodies have been deposited at the Mortuaries for the following purposes :—

	<i>Post-mortem examination and Inquest.</i>	<i>Inquest.</i>	<i>Post-mortem examination.</i>	<i>Convenience.</i>
Reigate . .	—	—	35	2
Merstham	2	—	1	—

Storage of House Refuse.

The resolution of the Council dealing with the construction and type of dustbin to be used, in accordance with Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and mentioned in the Annual Report for 1937, came into operation as from 1st June, 1938. Members of the trade supplying dustbins to the public have co-operated very satisfactorily in this matter, and as bins become defective they are being replaced by receptacles which will improve storage conditions and facilitate the work of the Cleansing Department.

Legal Proceedings.

<i>Nature of Offence.</i>	<i>Date of Information.</i>	<i>Date of Hearing.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
Selling Milk 39% deficient in Milk Fat.	8.12.38.	5.1.39.	Fined £1 and costs Solicitor's Fee £1 1s. 0d. An- alyst's Fee 10/6d.

